

SUPERMAN

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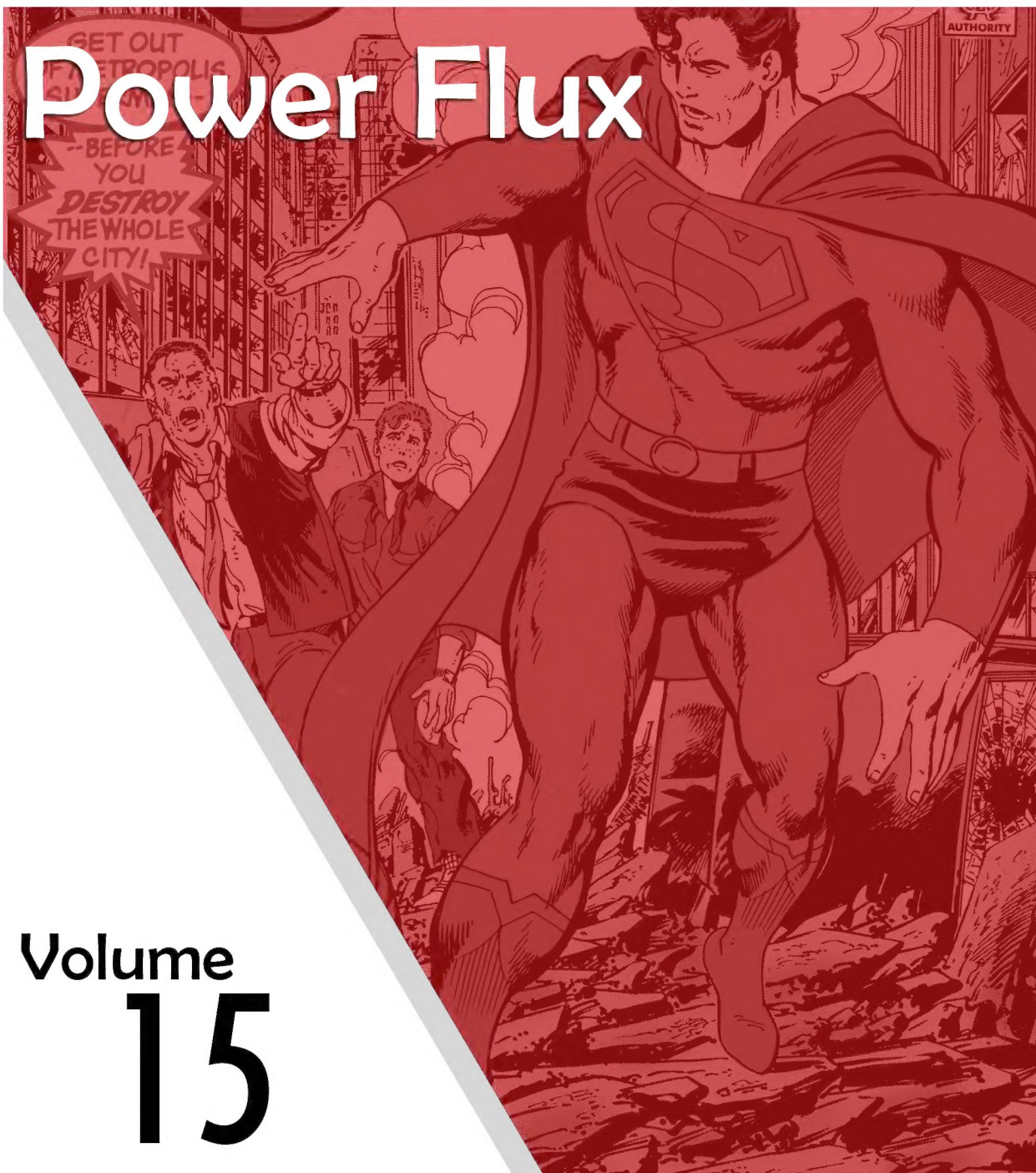
Post- **CRISIS**
ON INFINITE EARTHS

Post- **CRISIS**

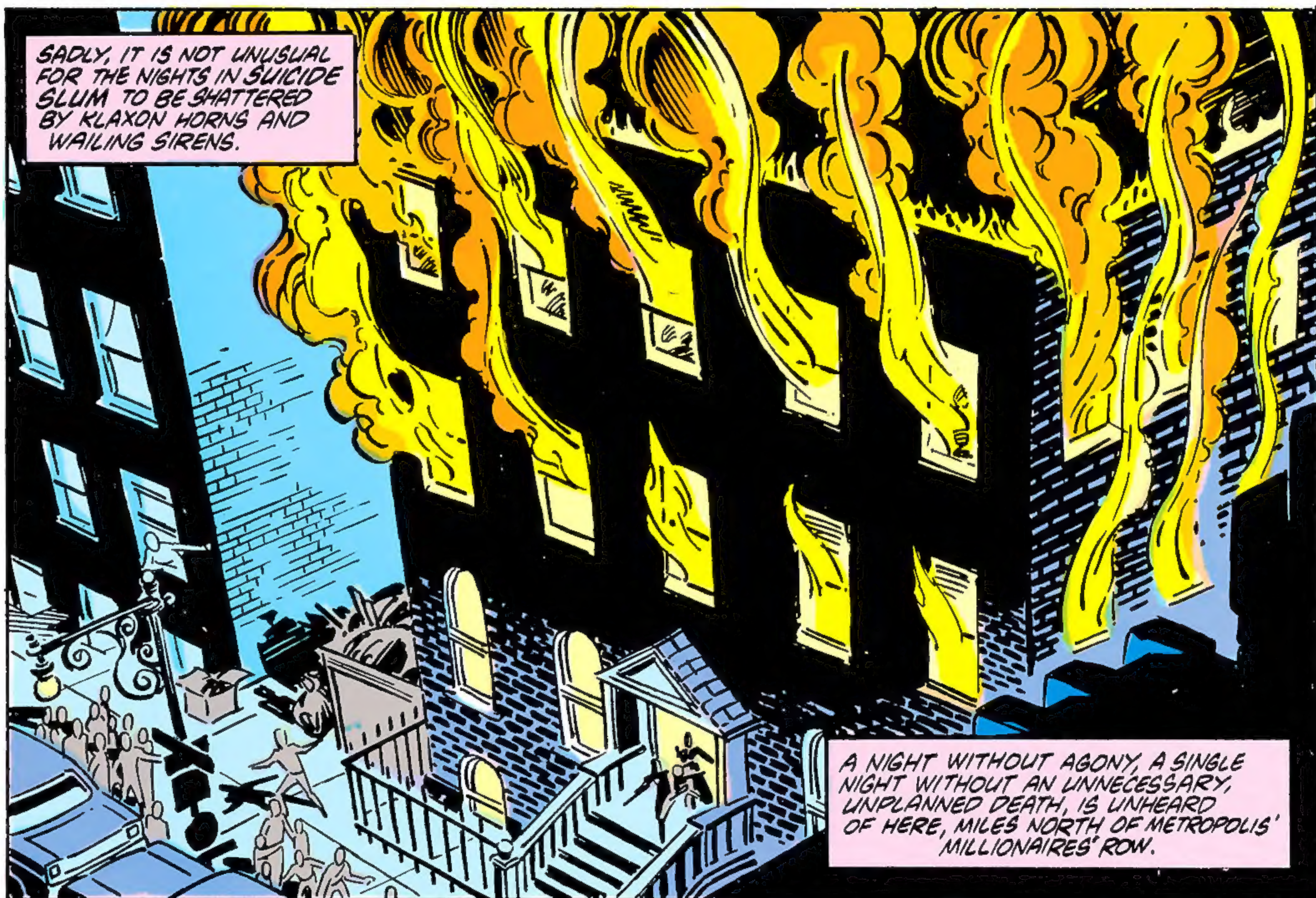
CRISIS

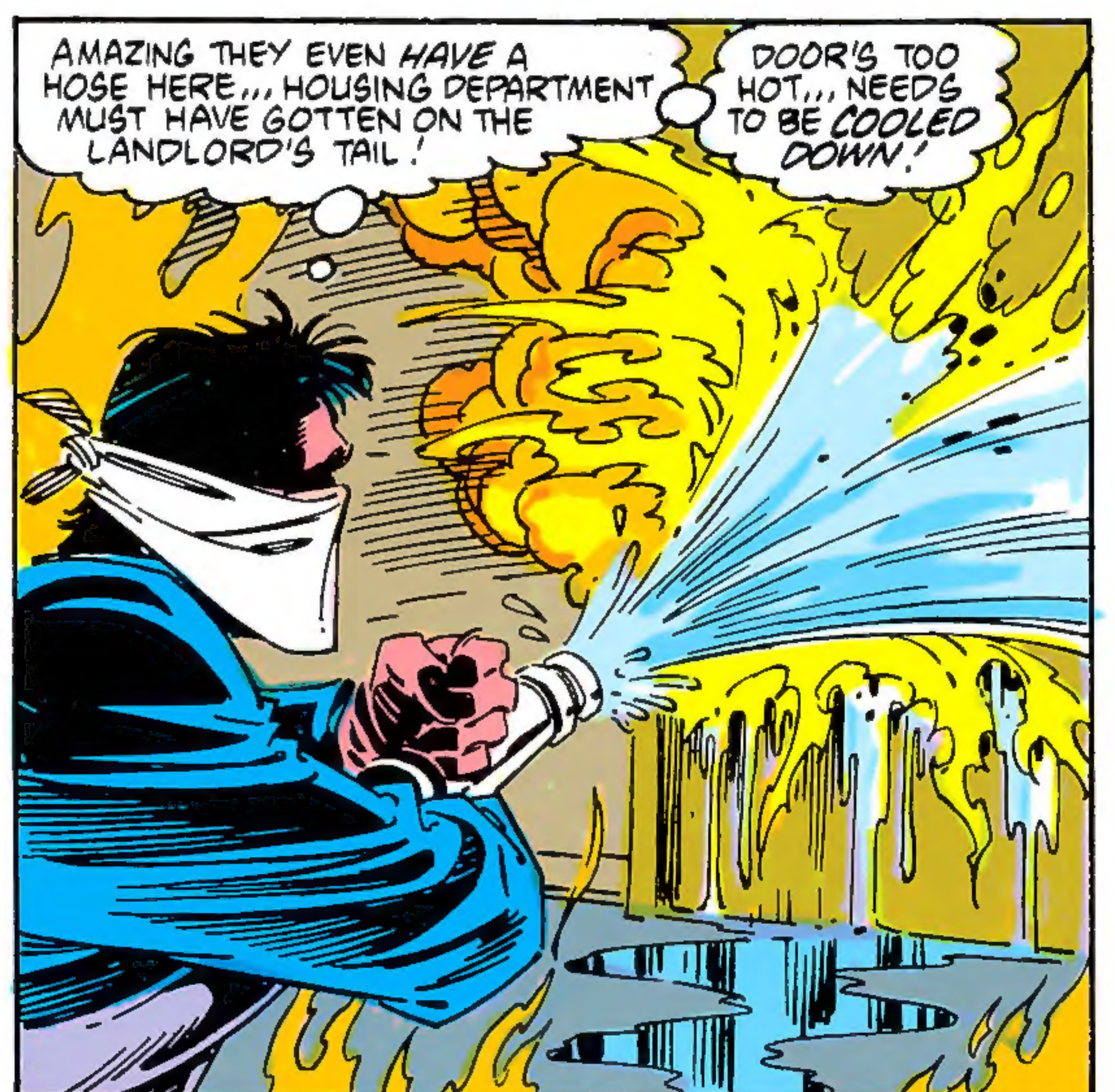
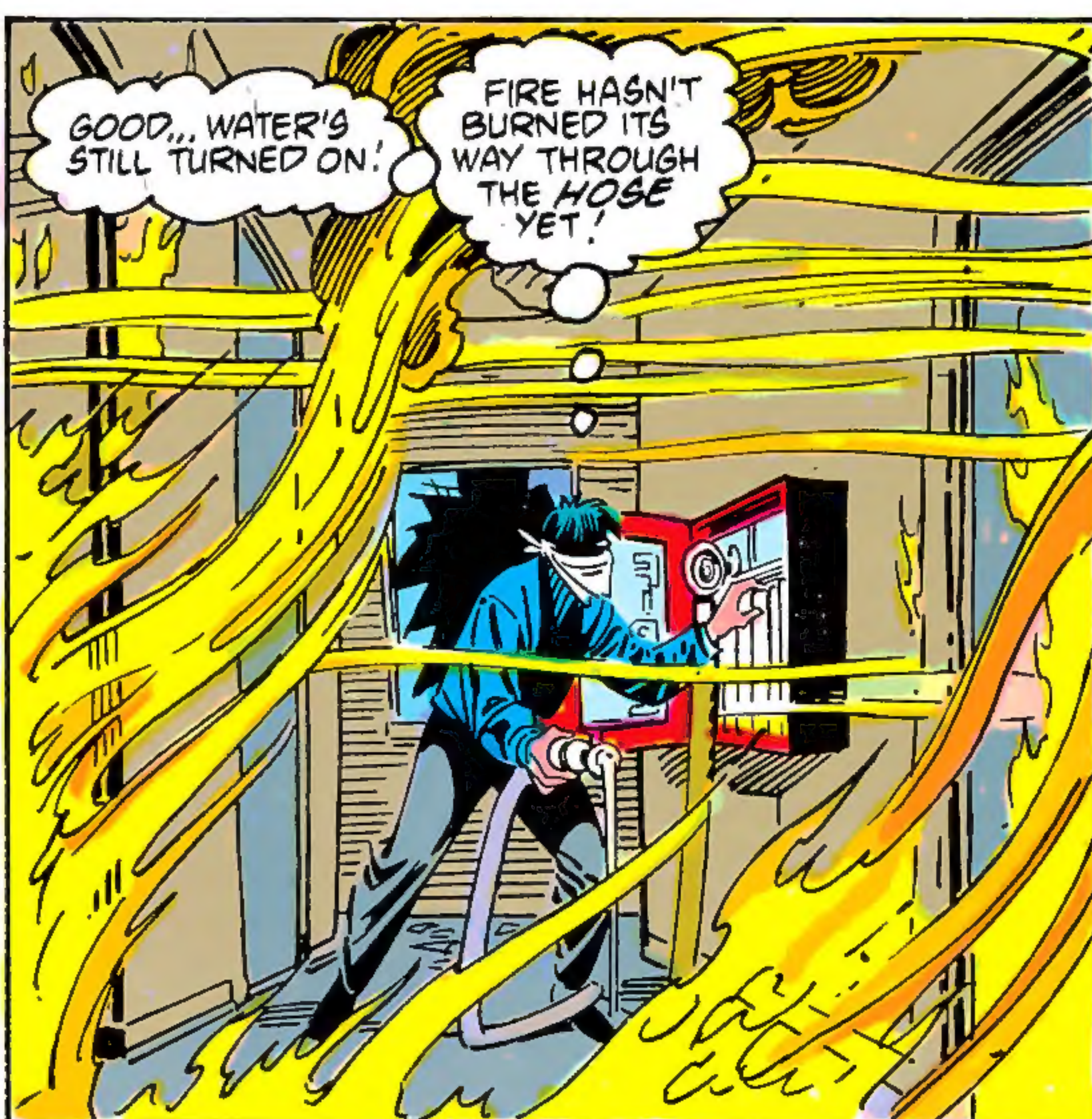
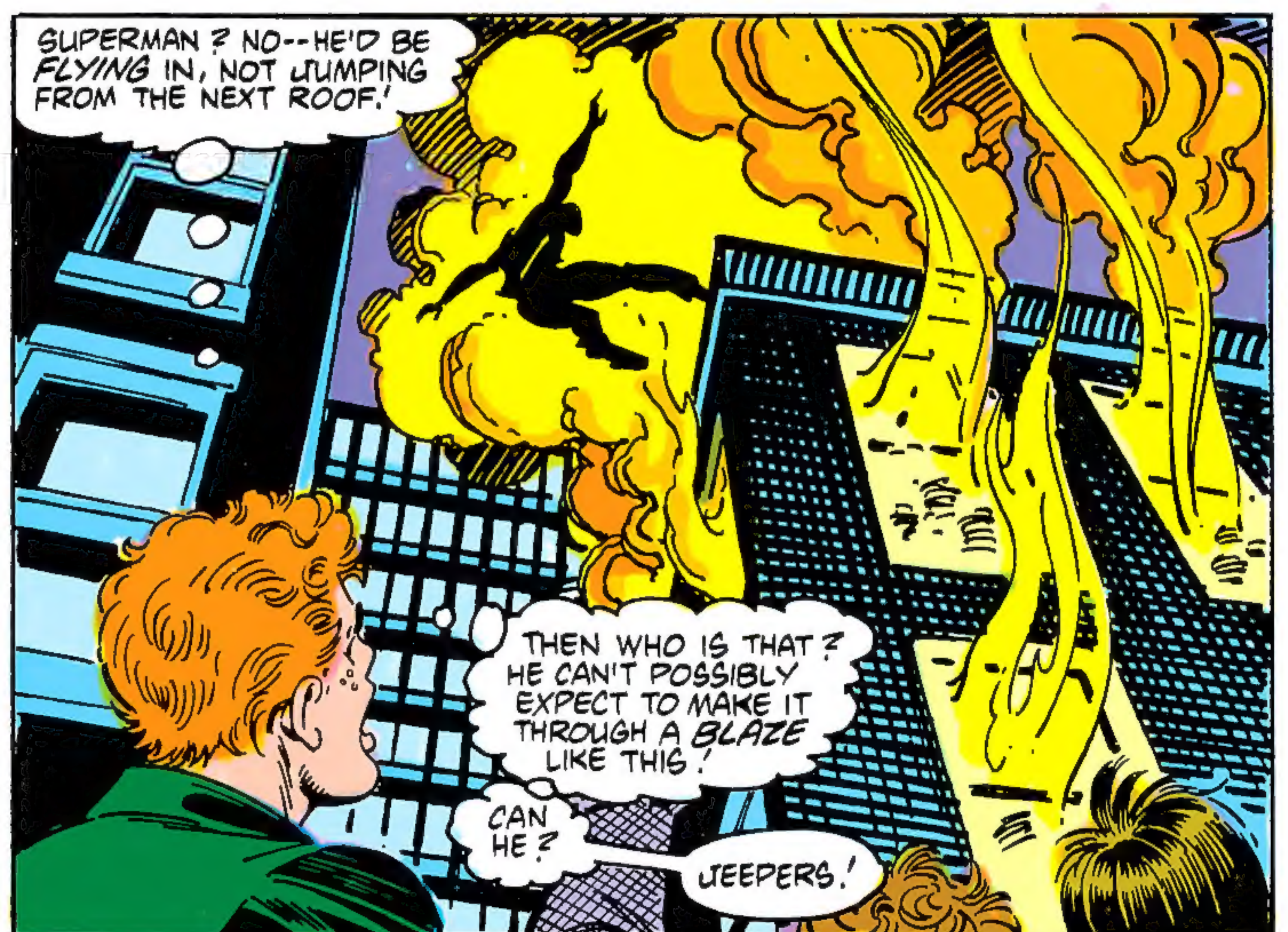
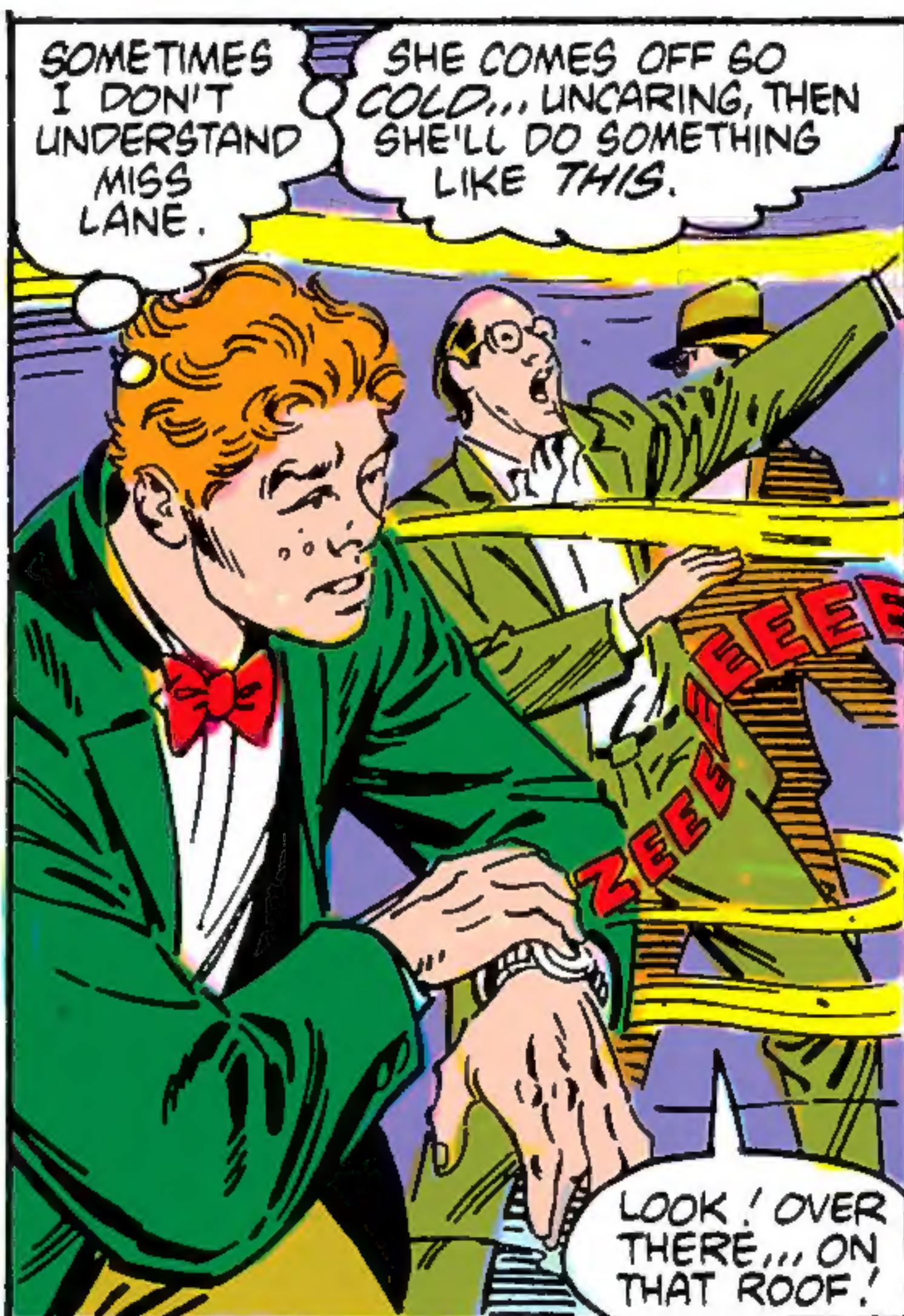
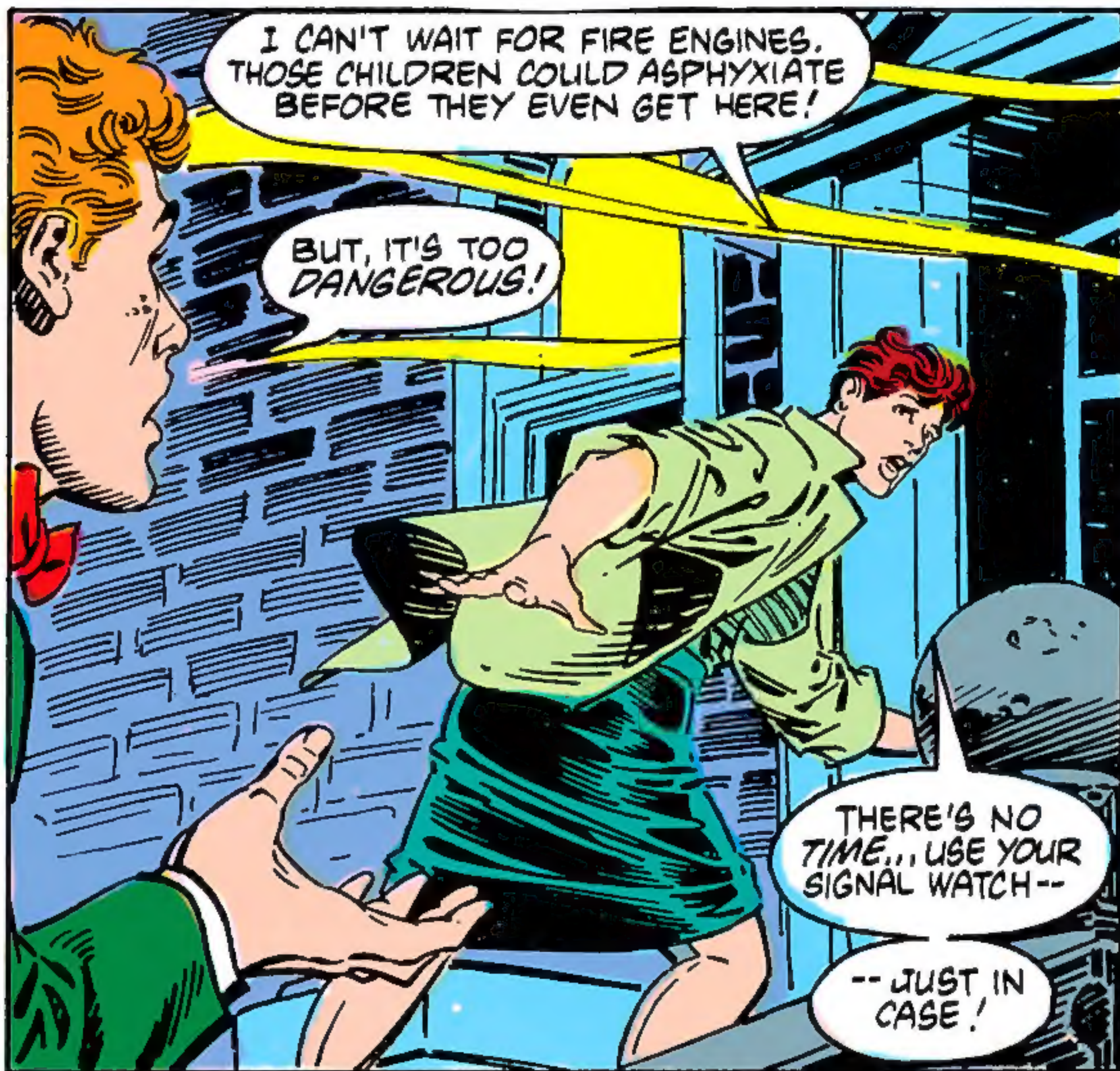
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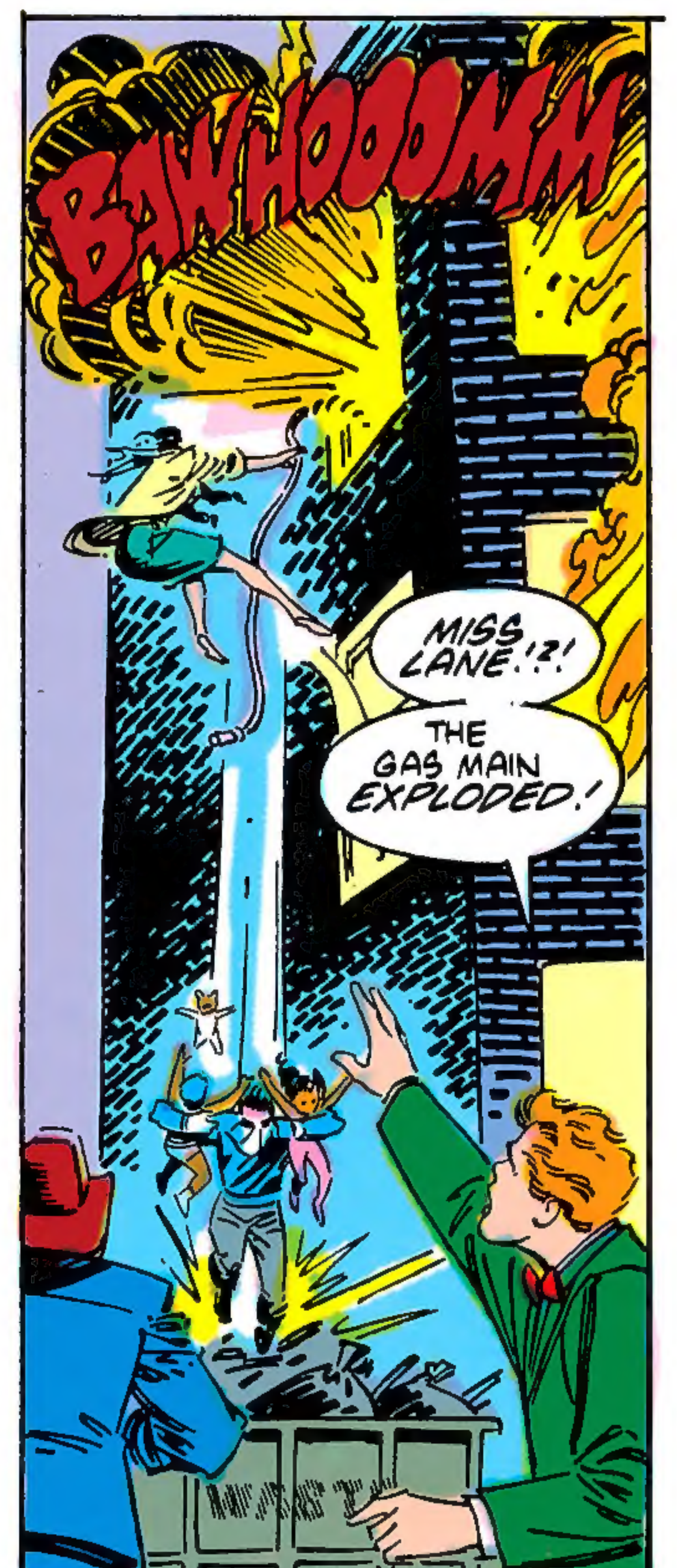
Power Flux

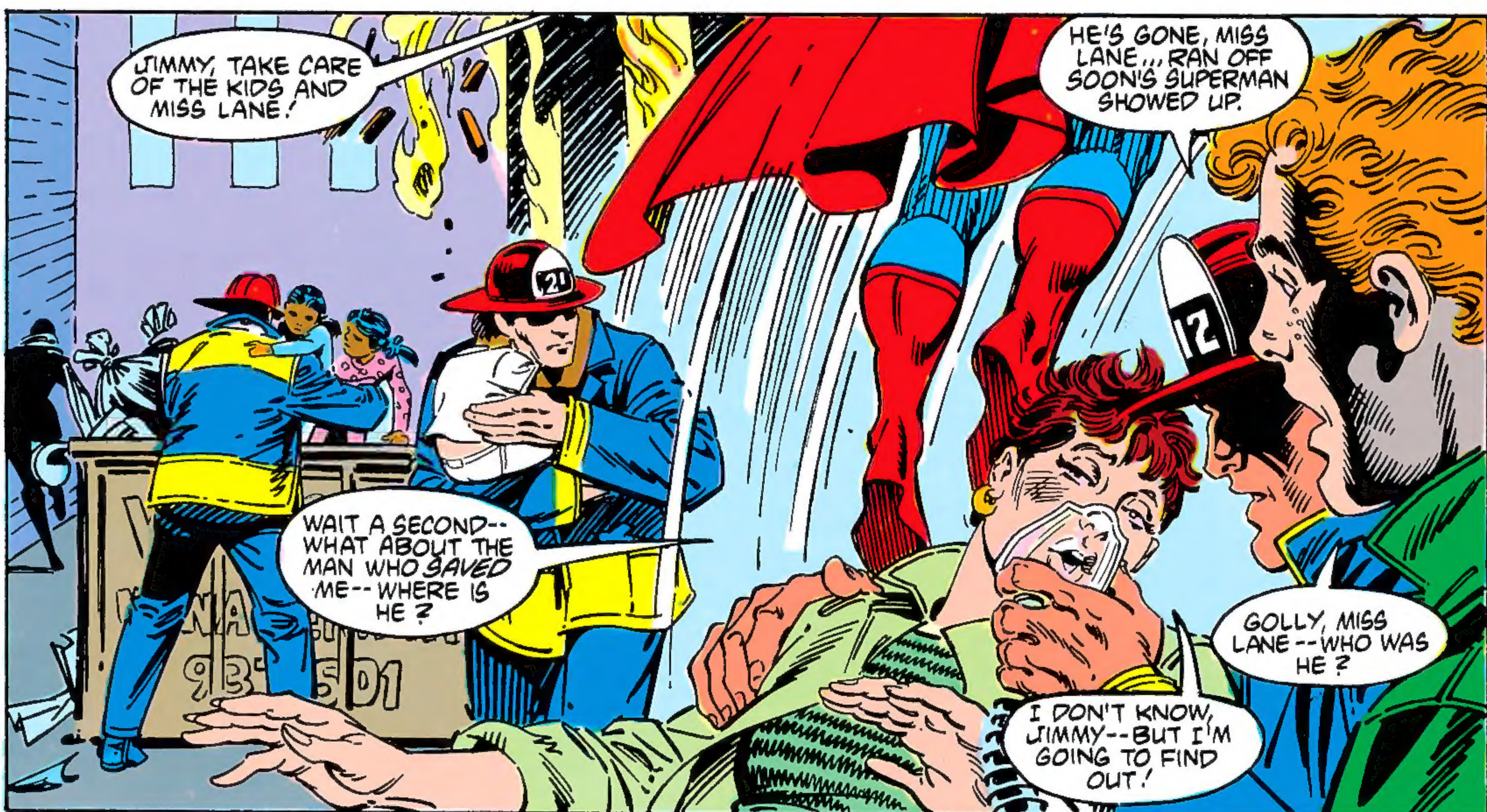
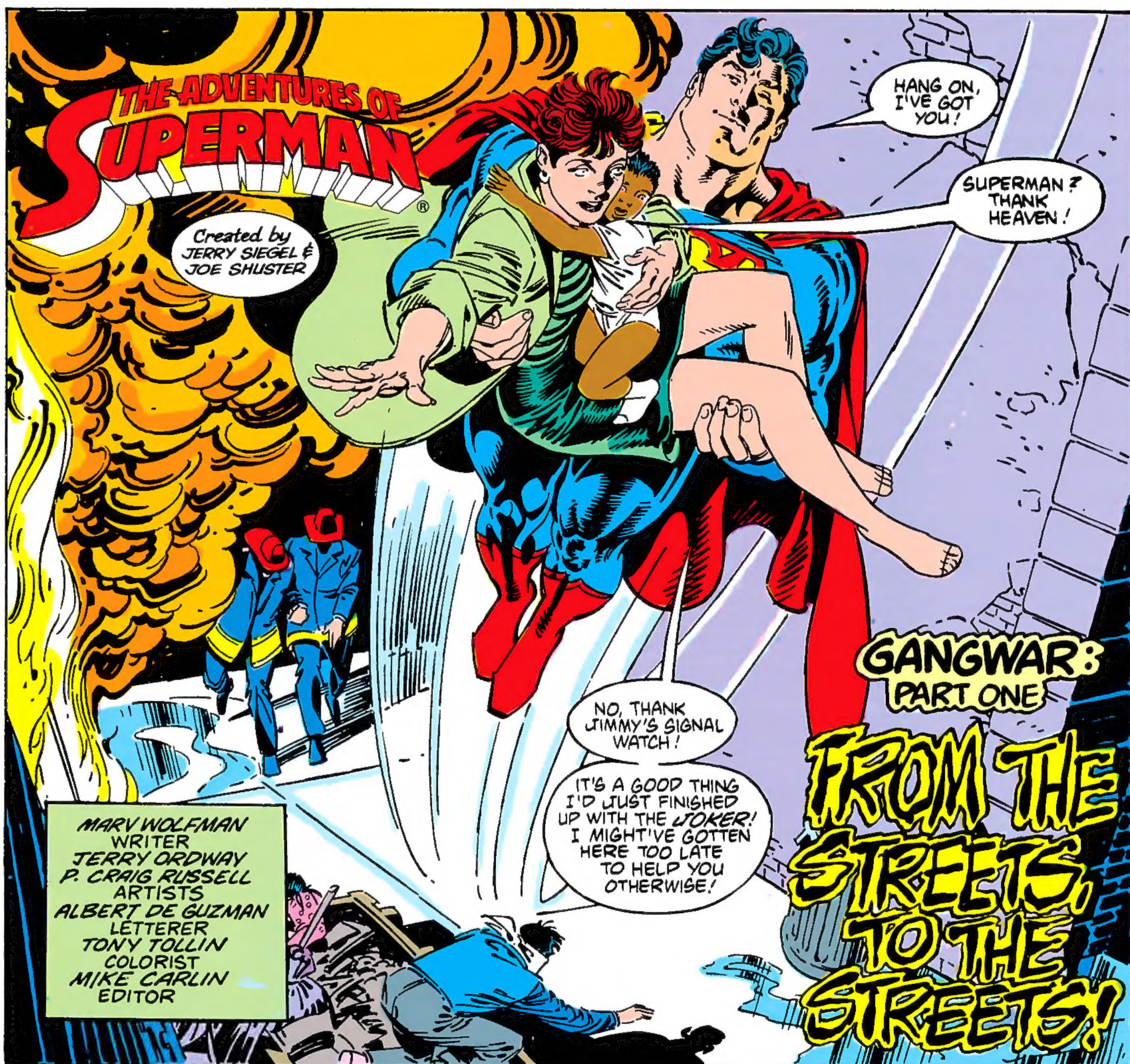


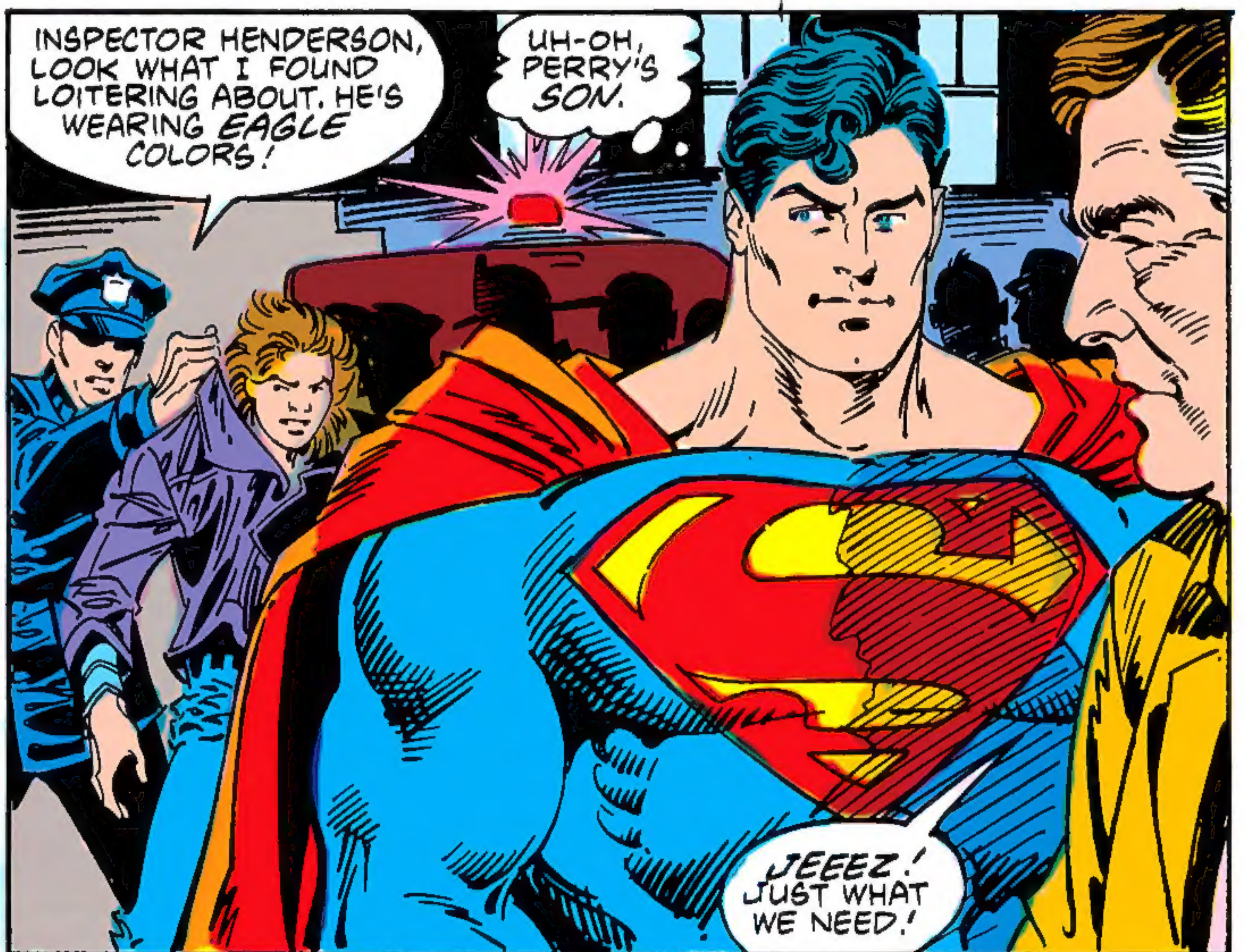
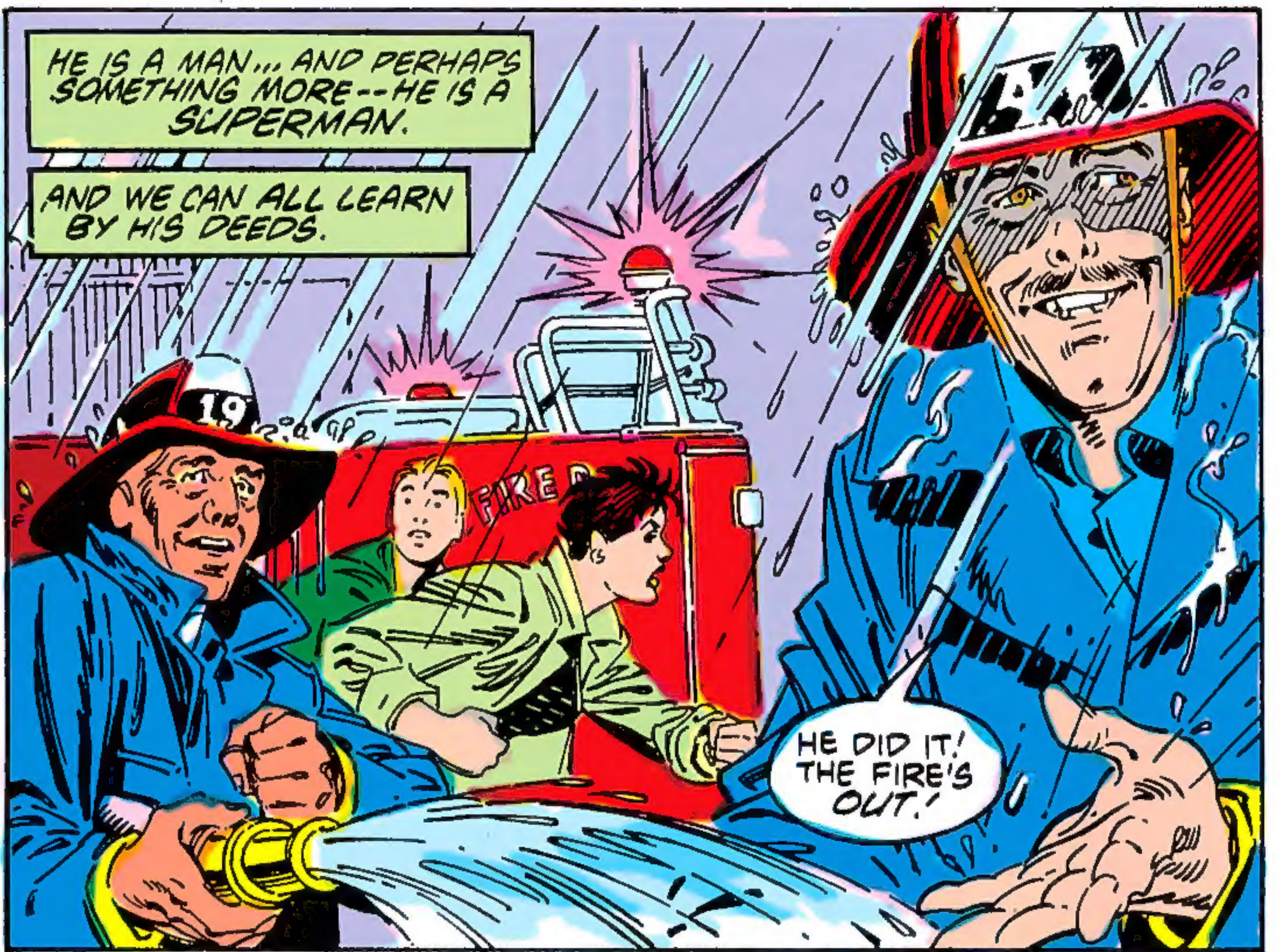
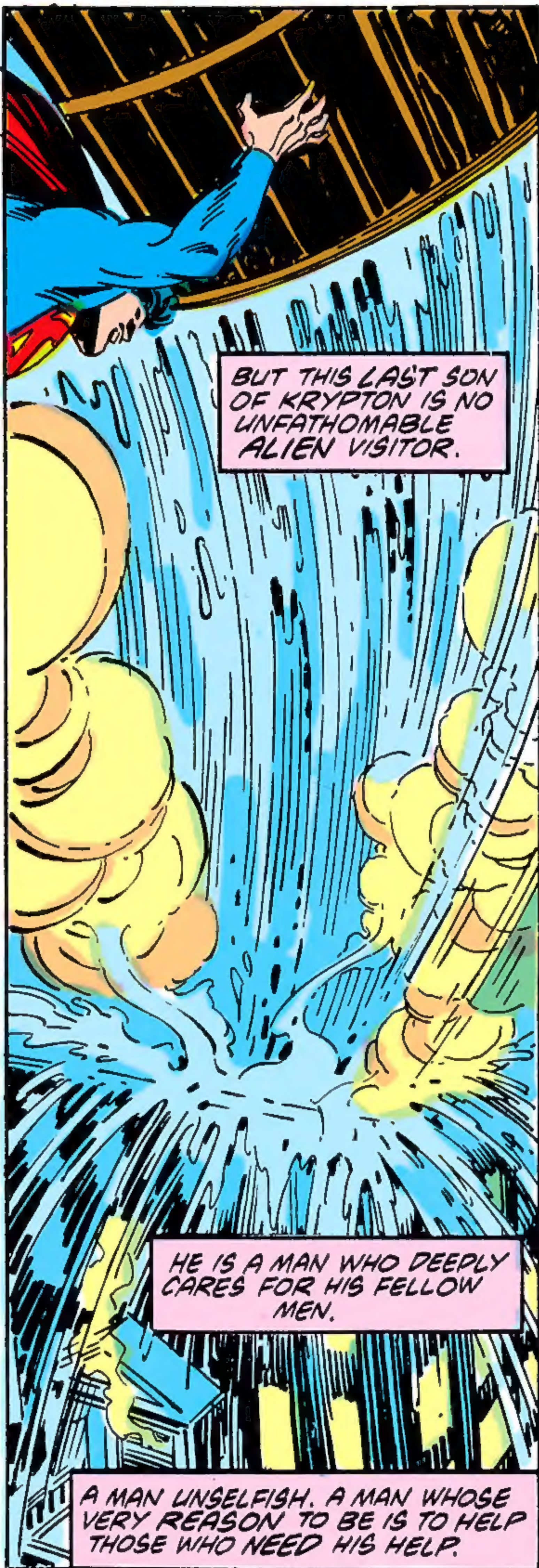
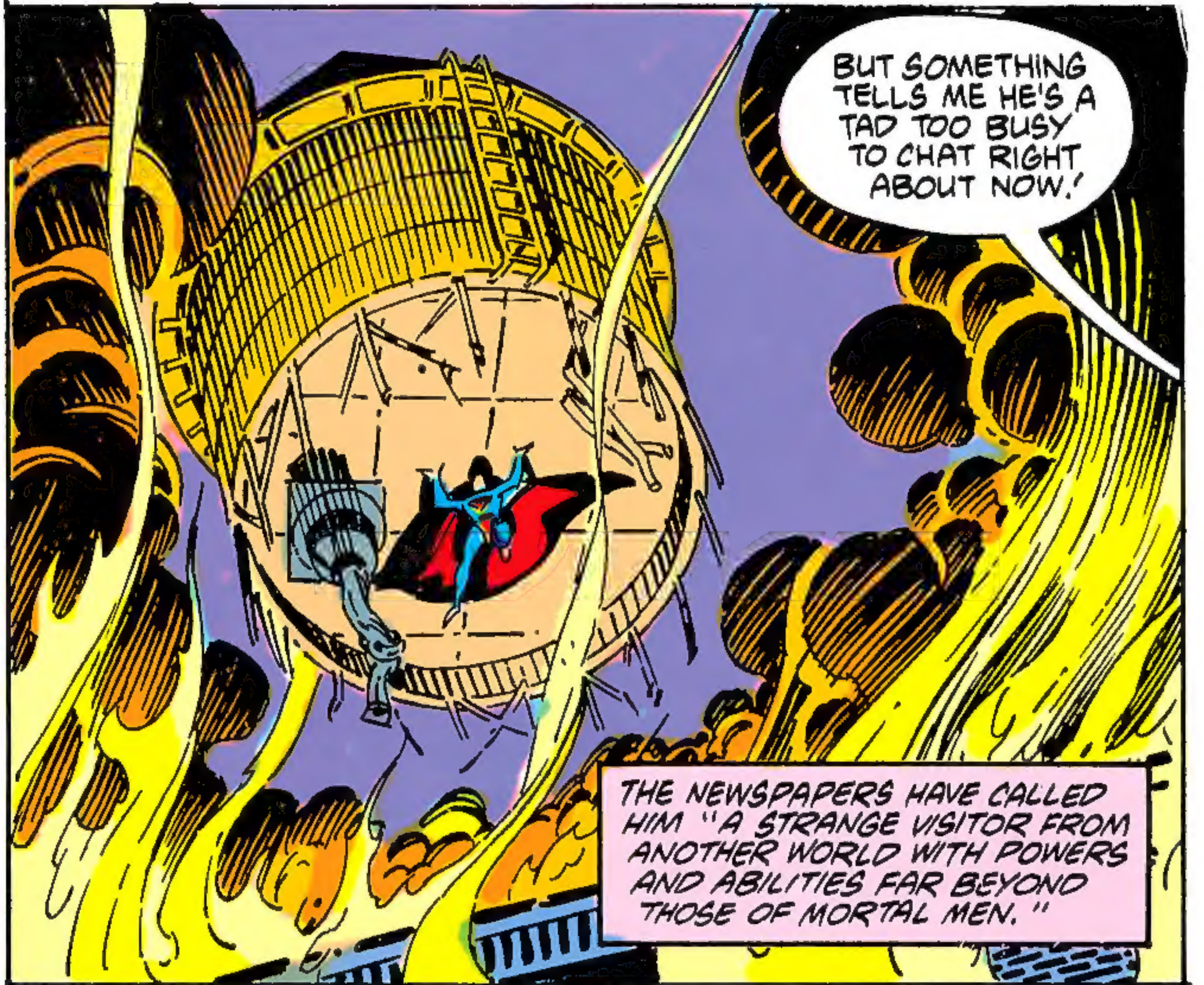
Volume
15

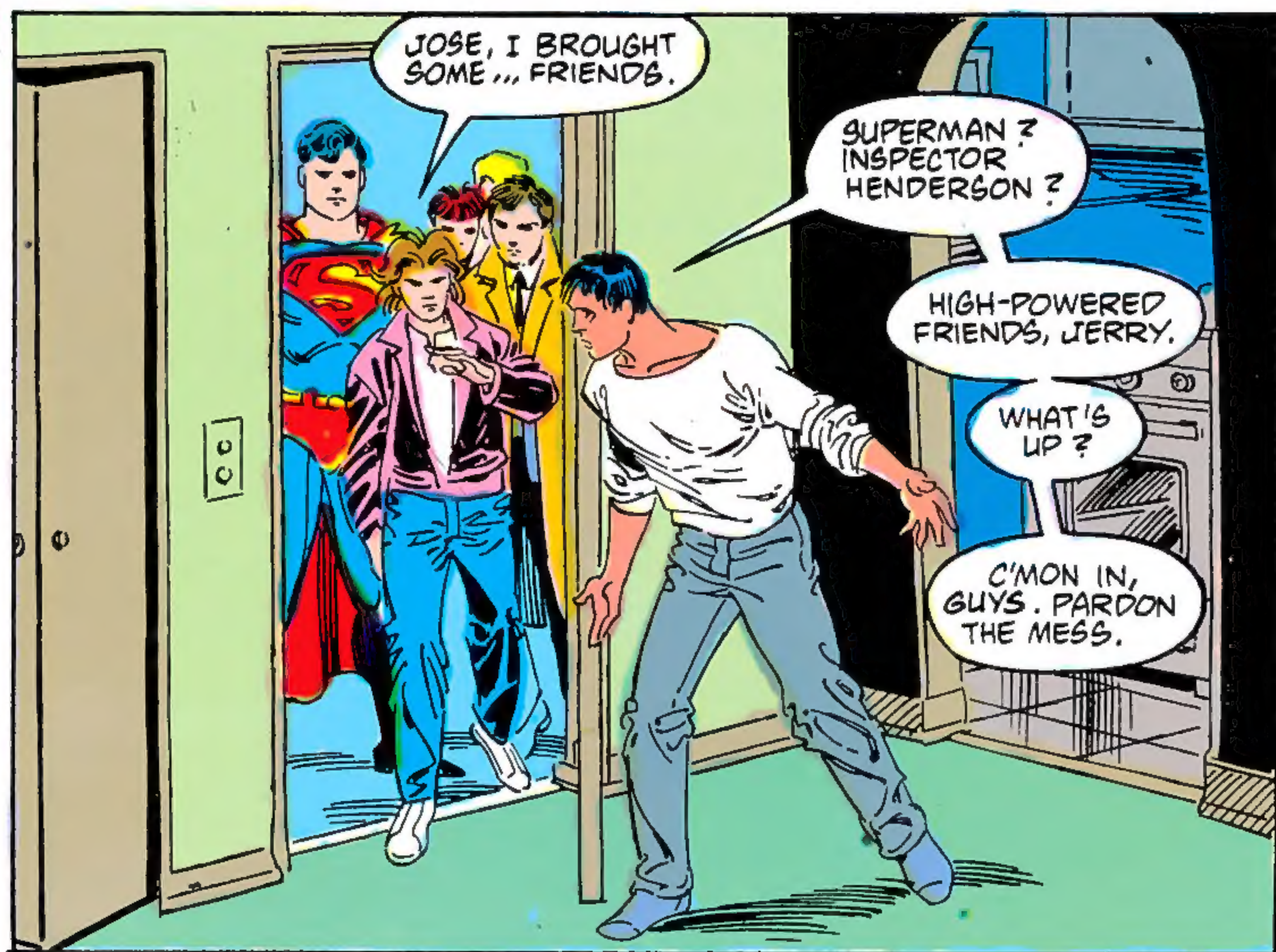
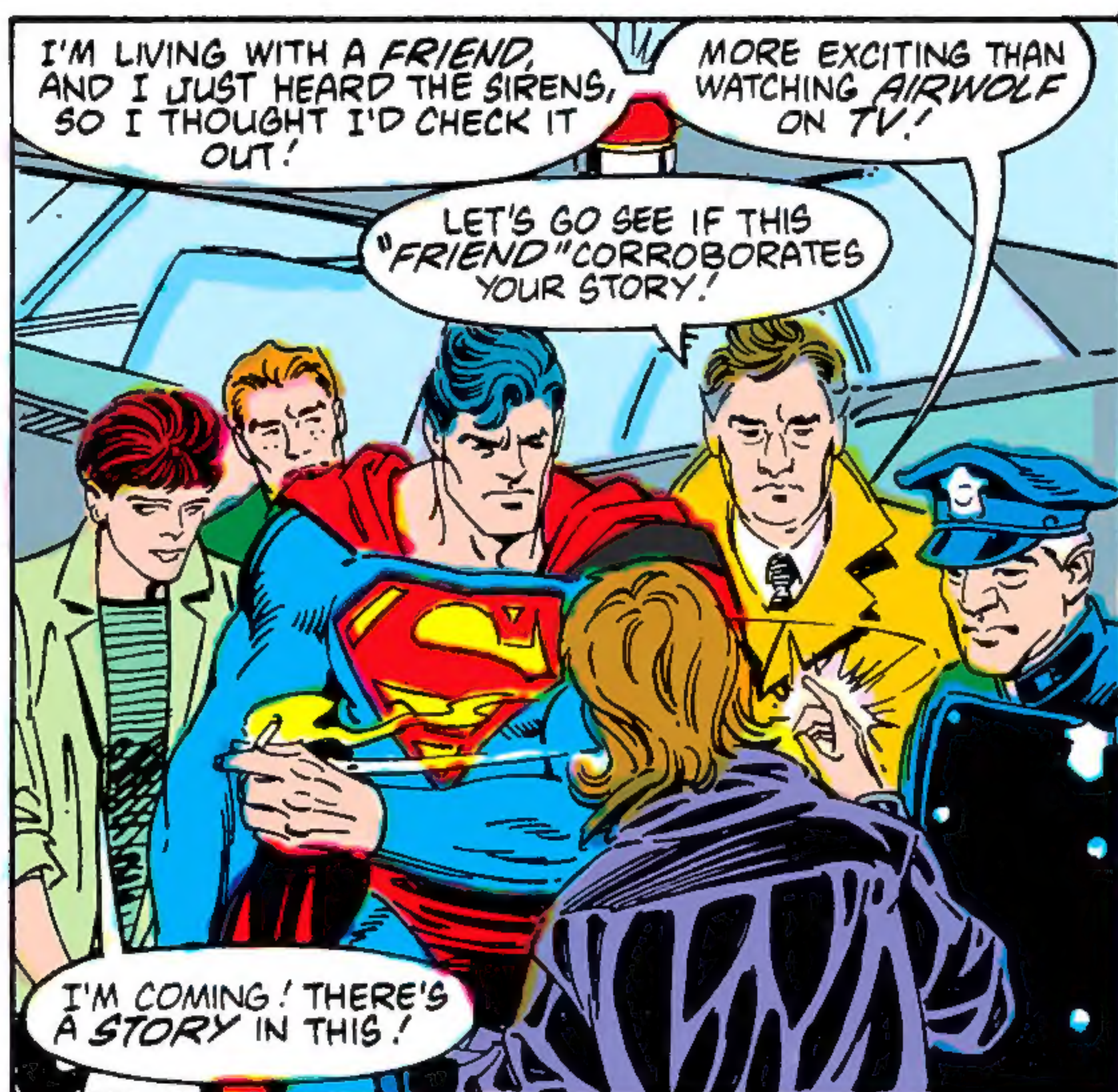
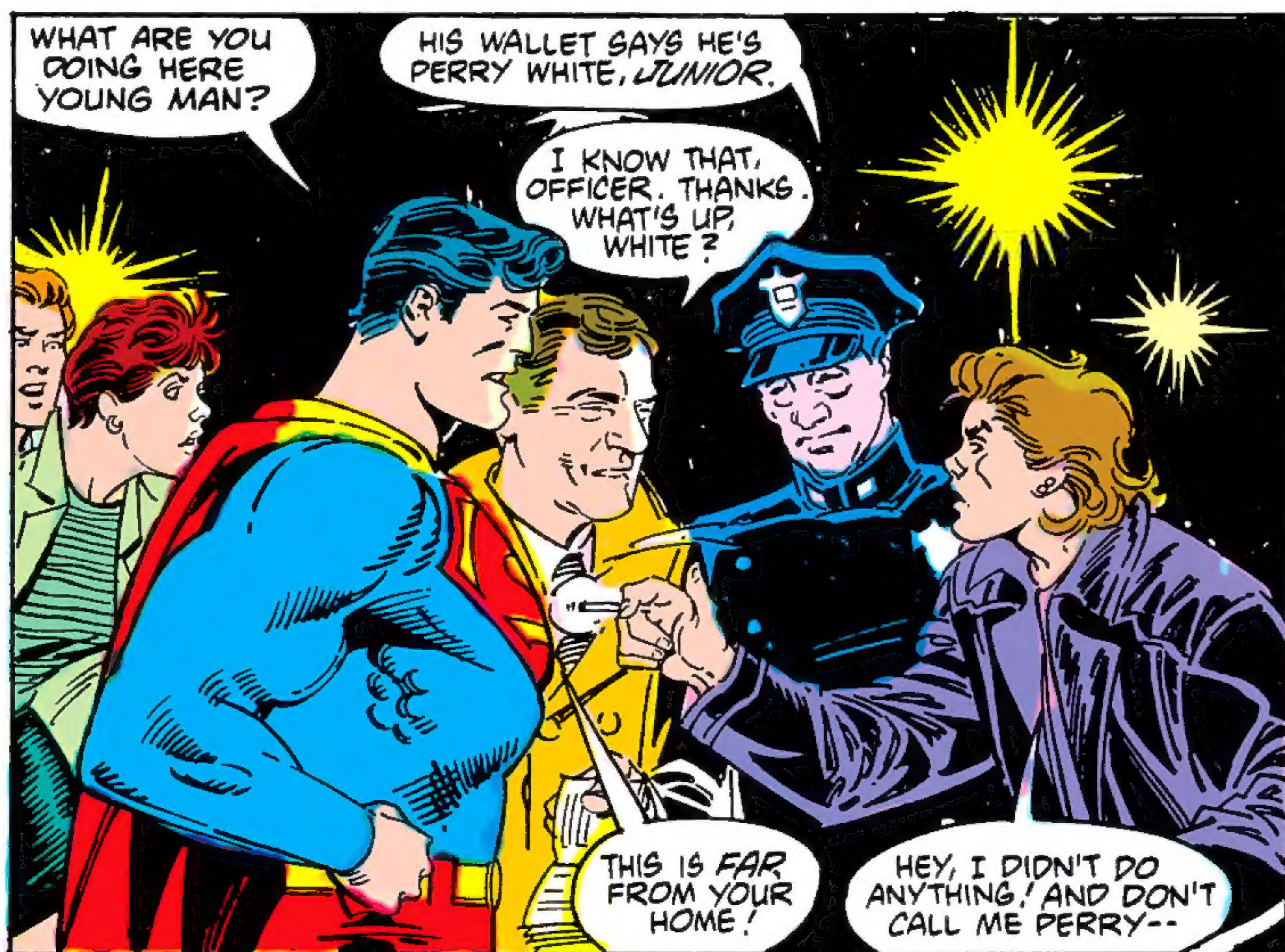


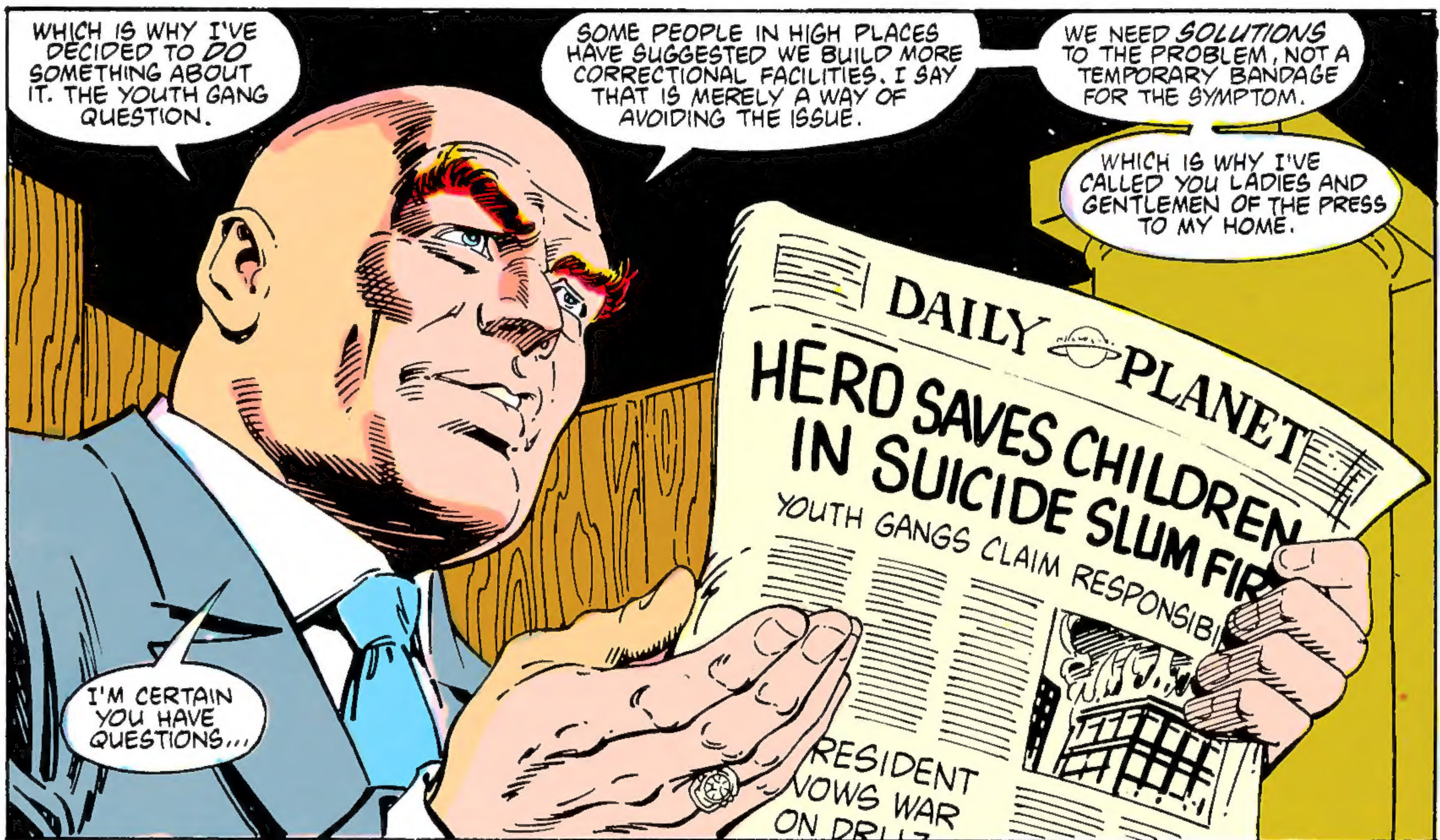
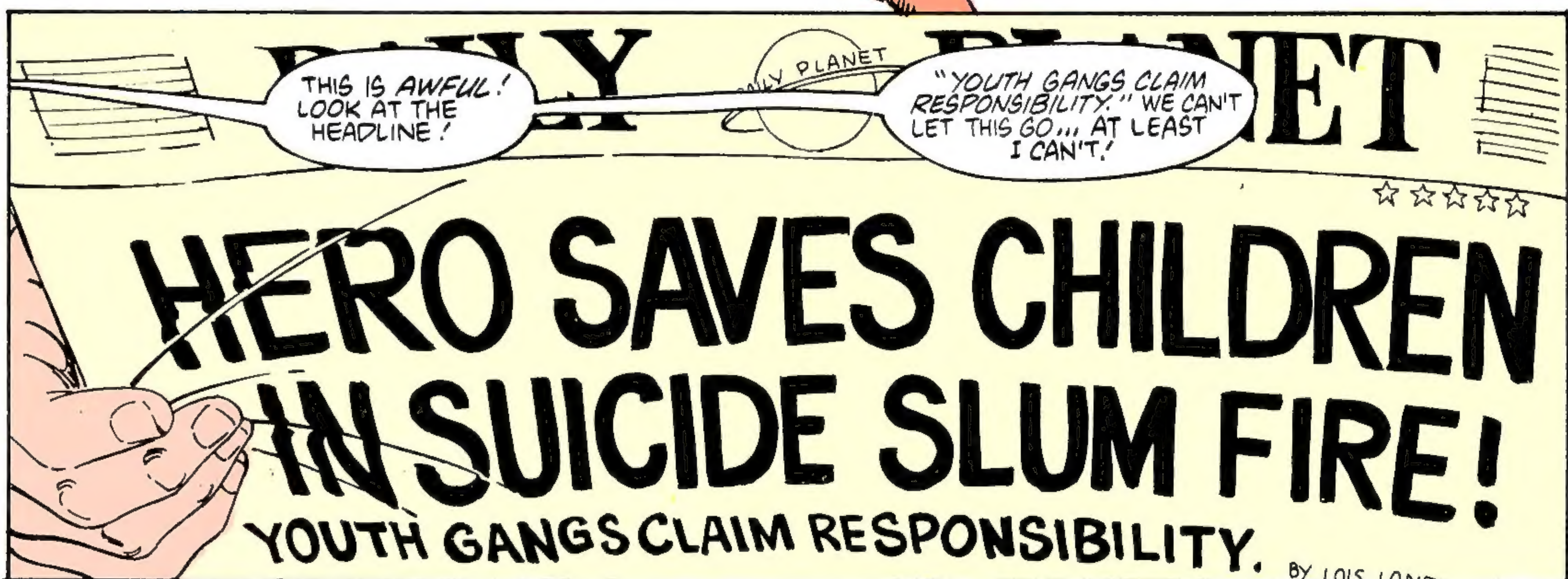
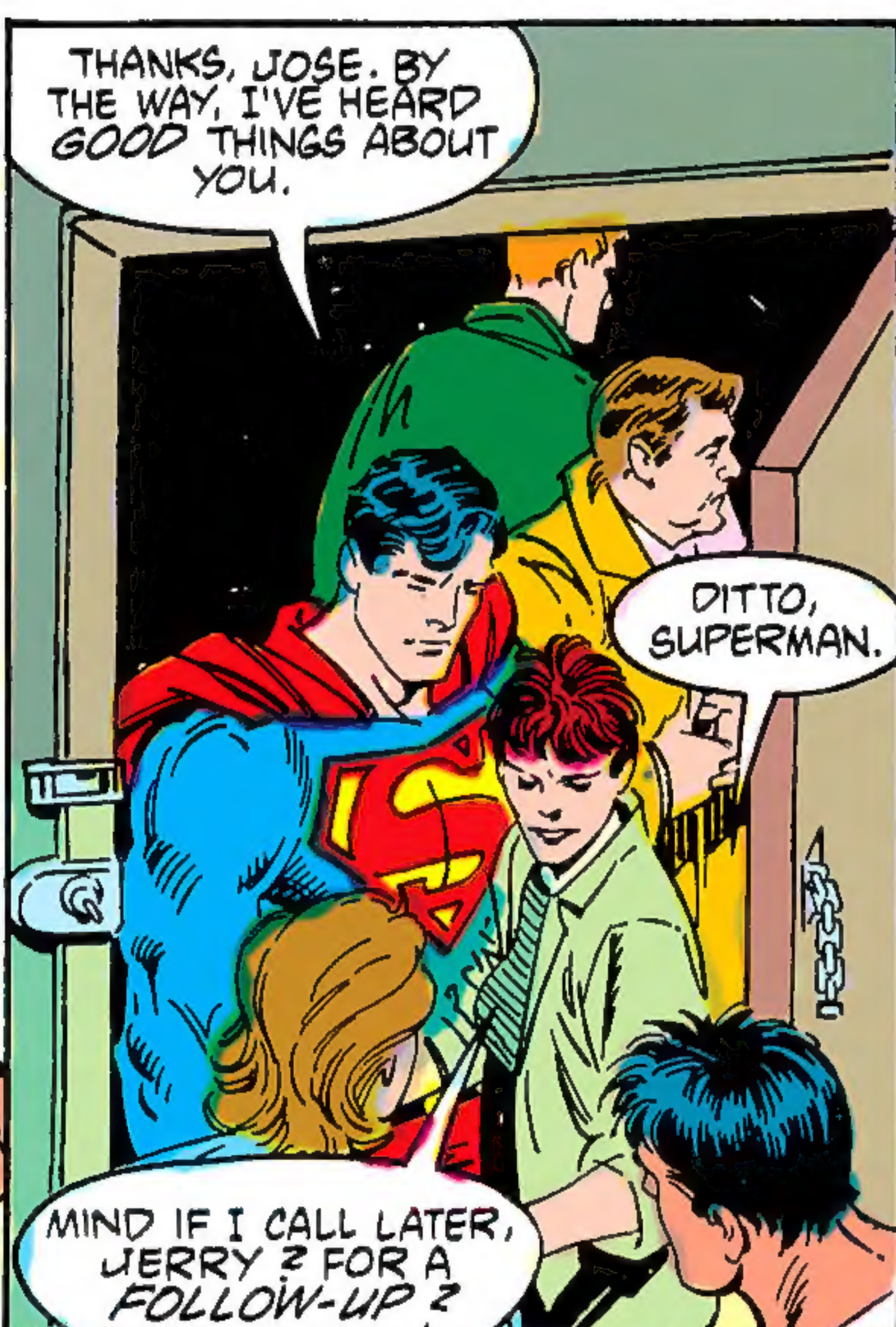
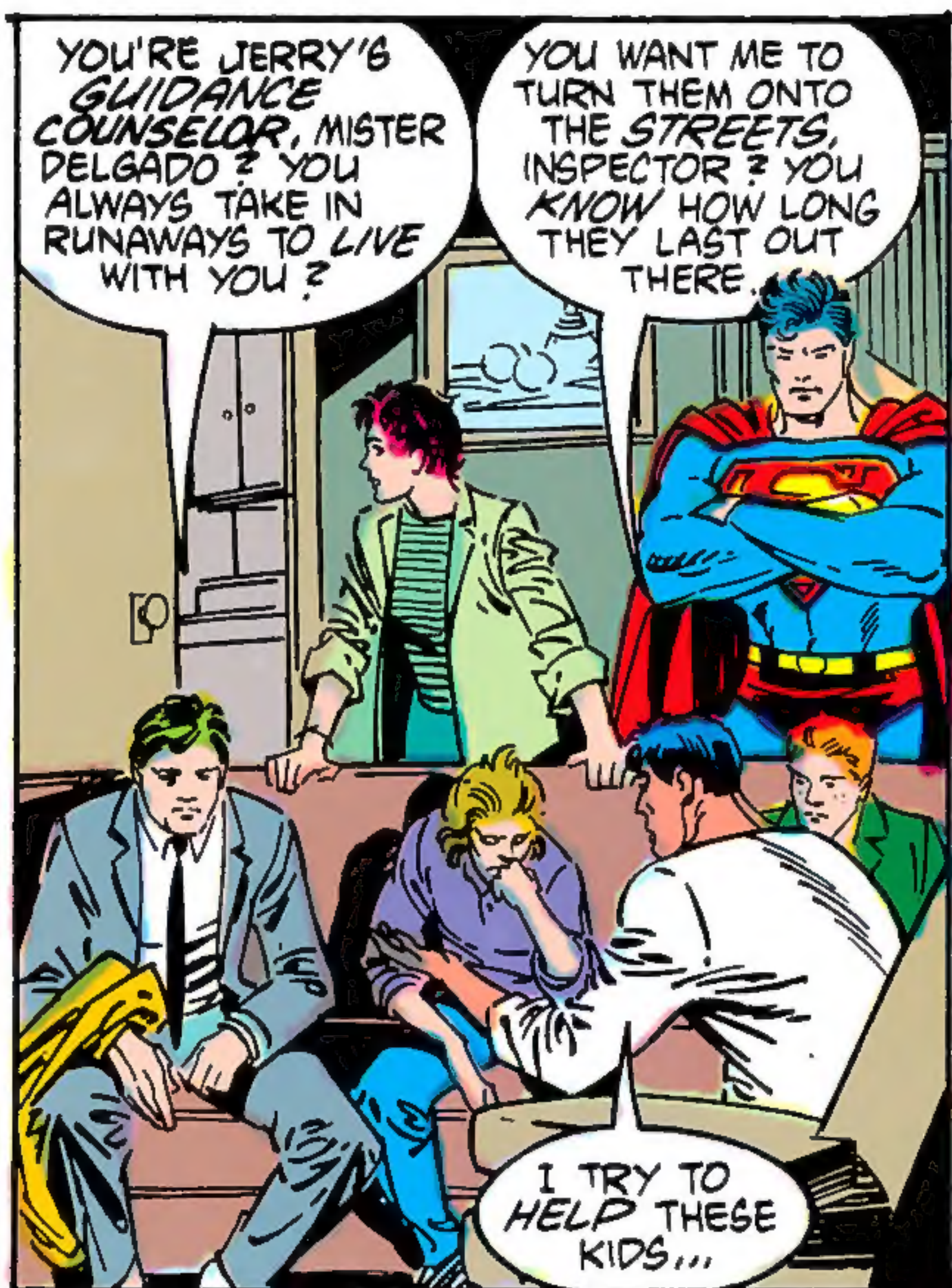


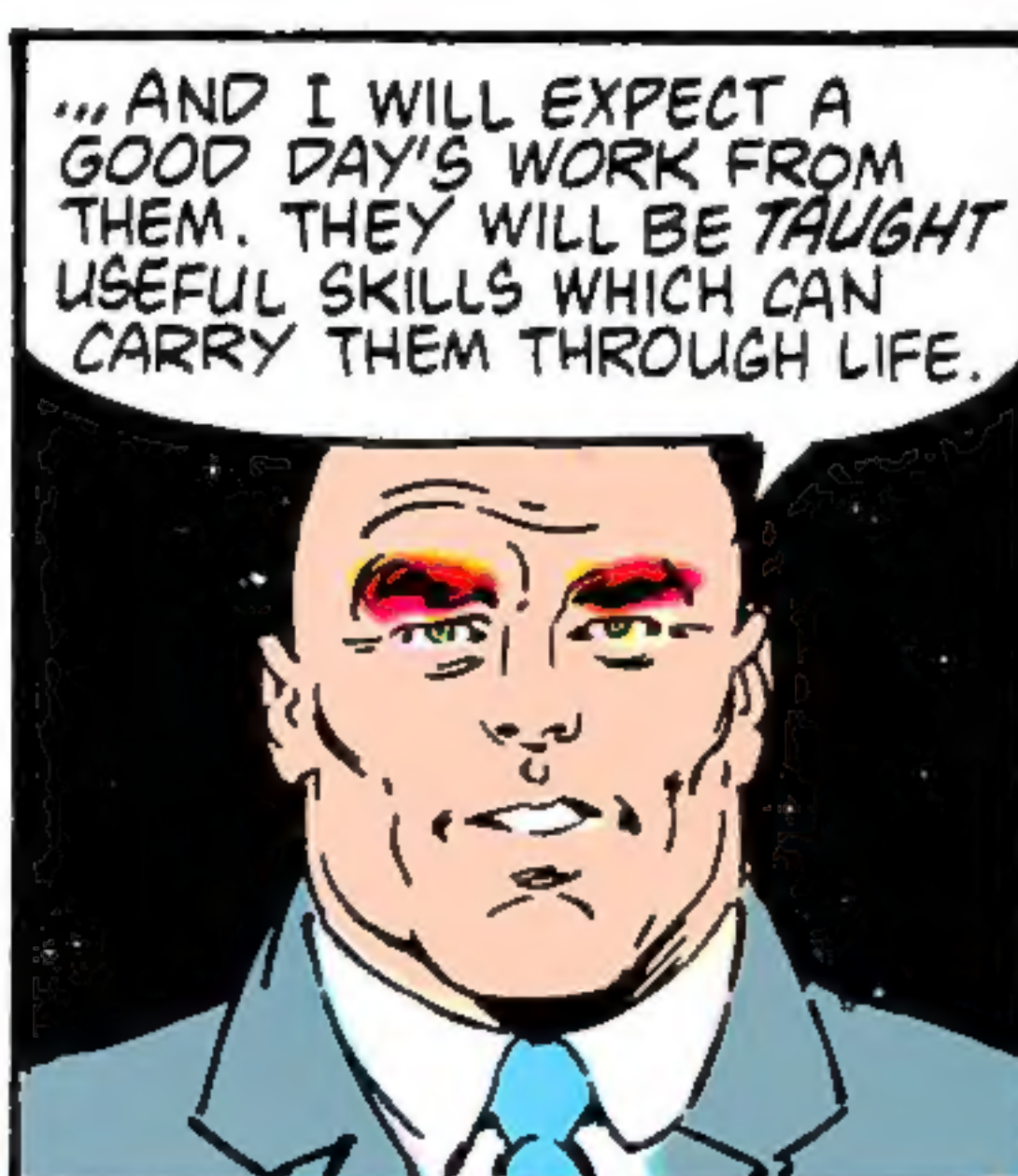
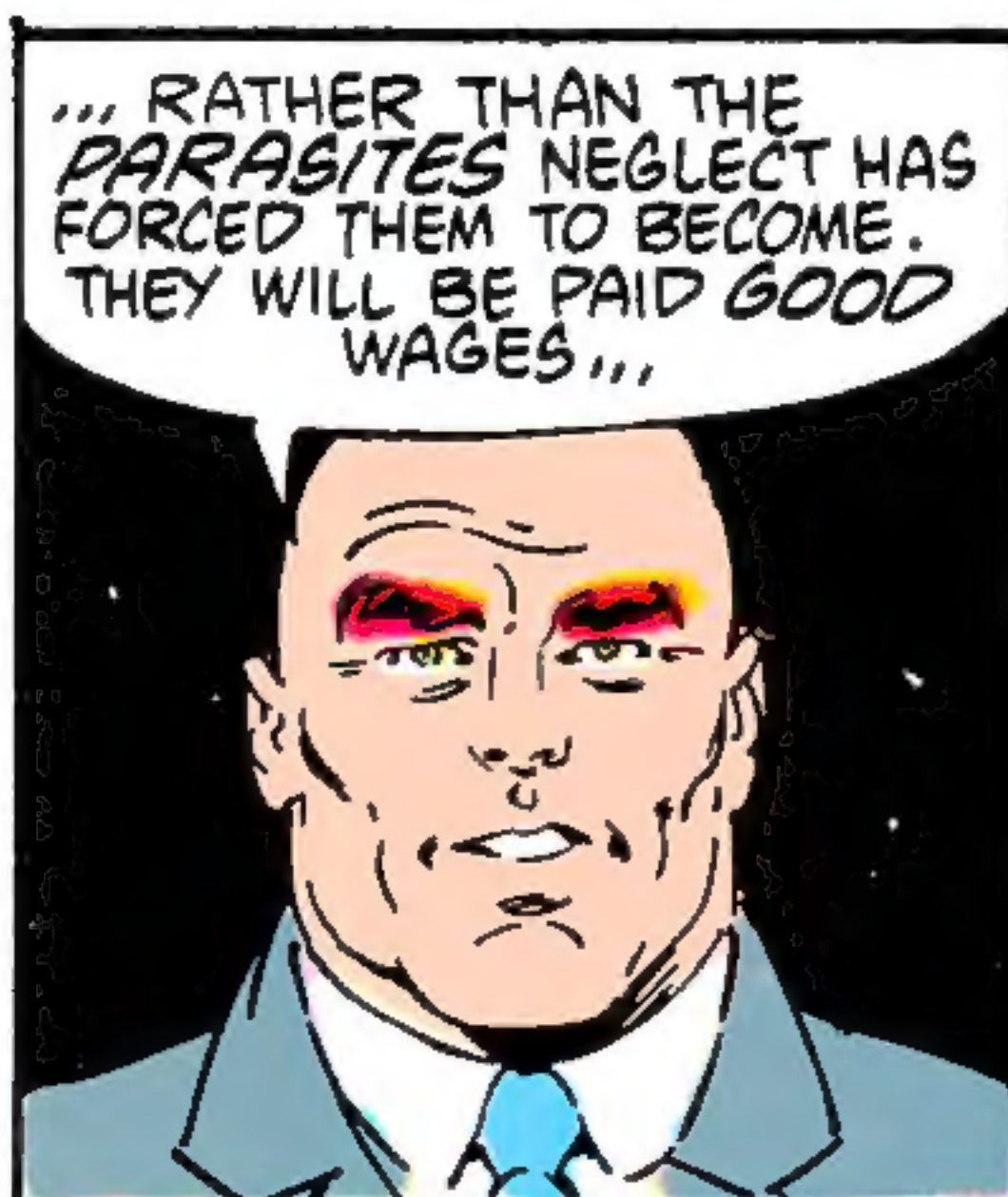
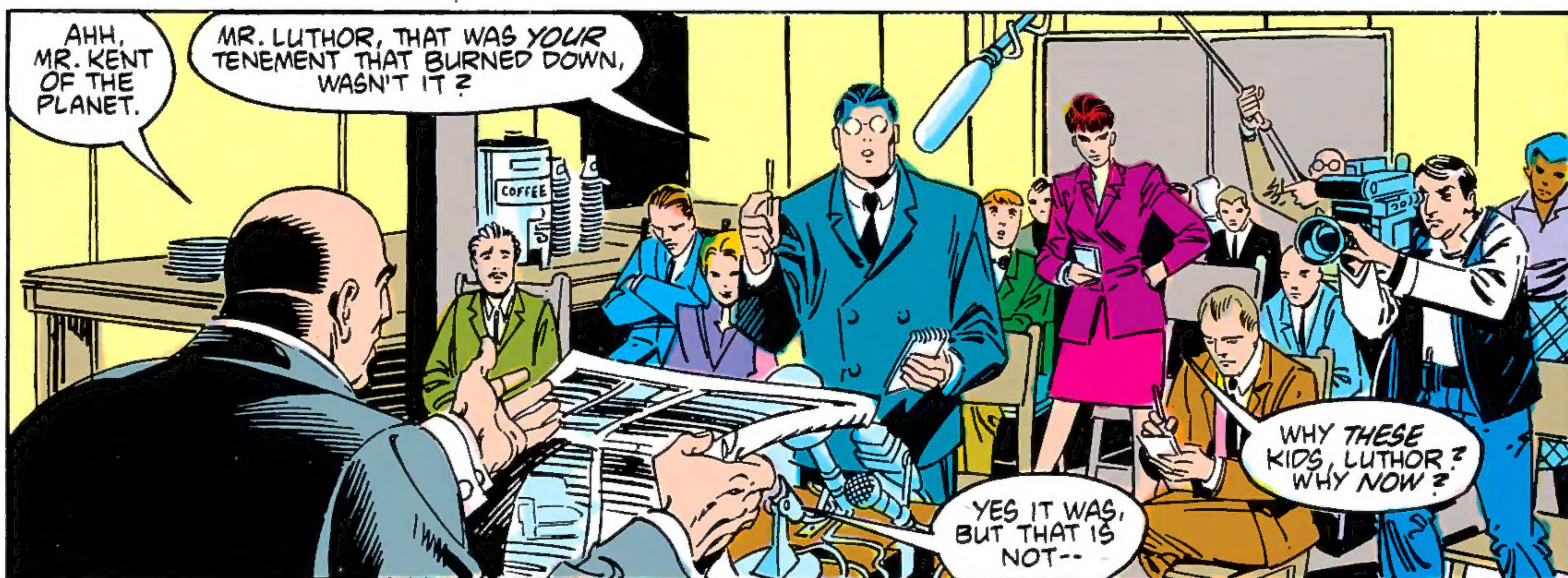


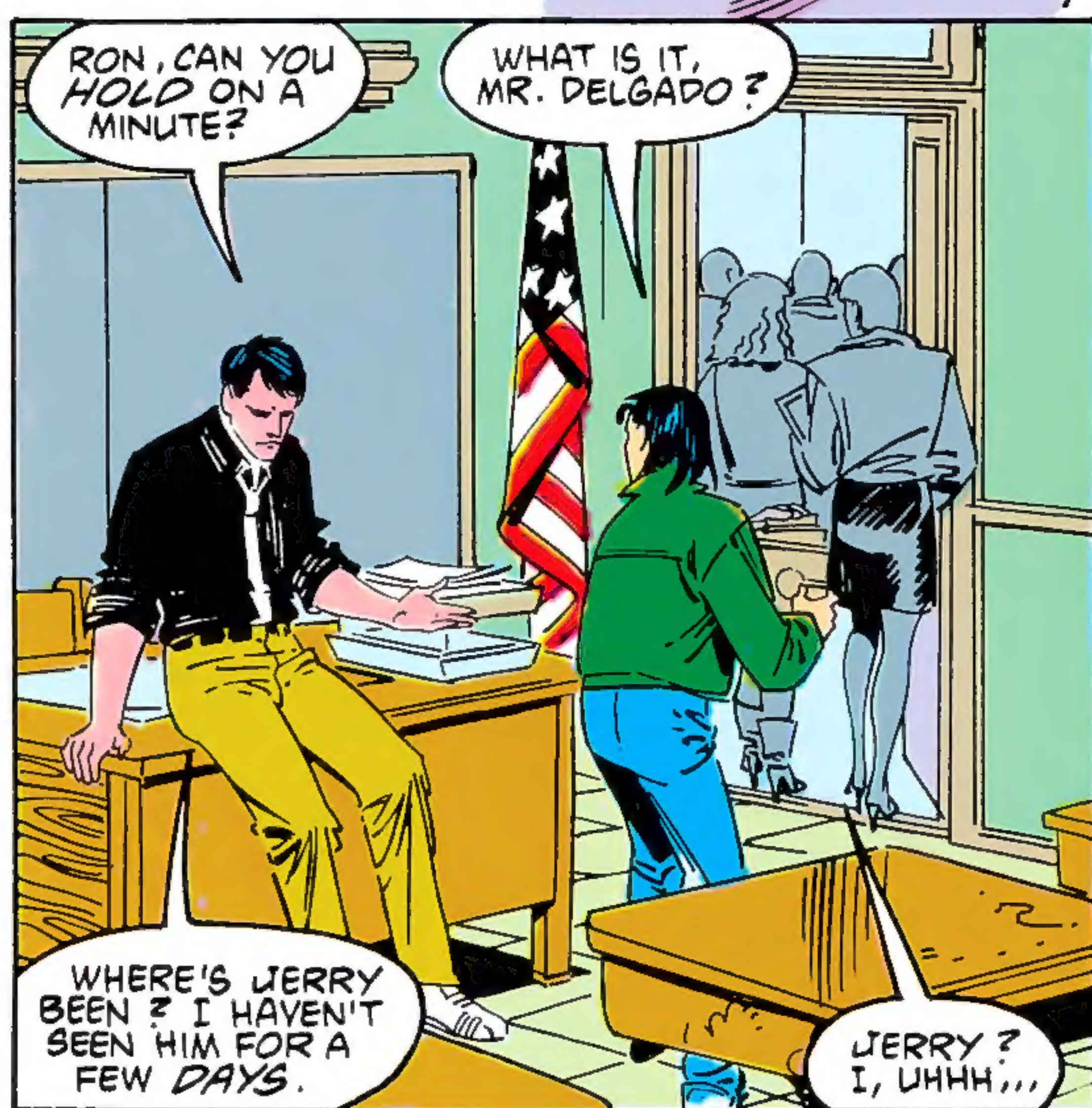
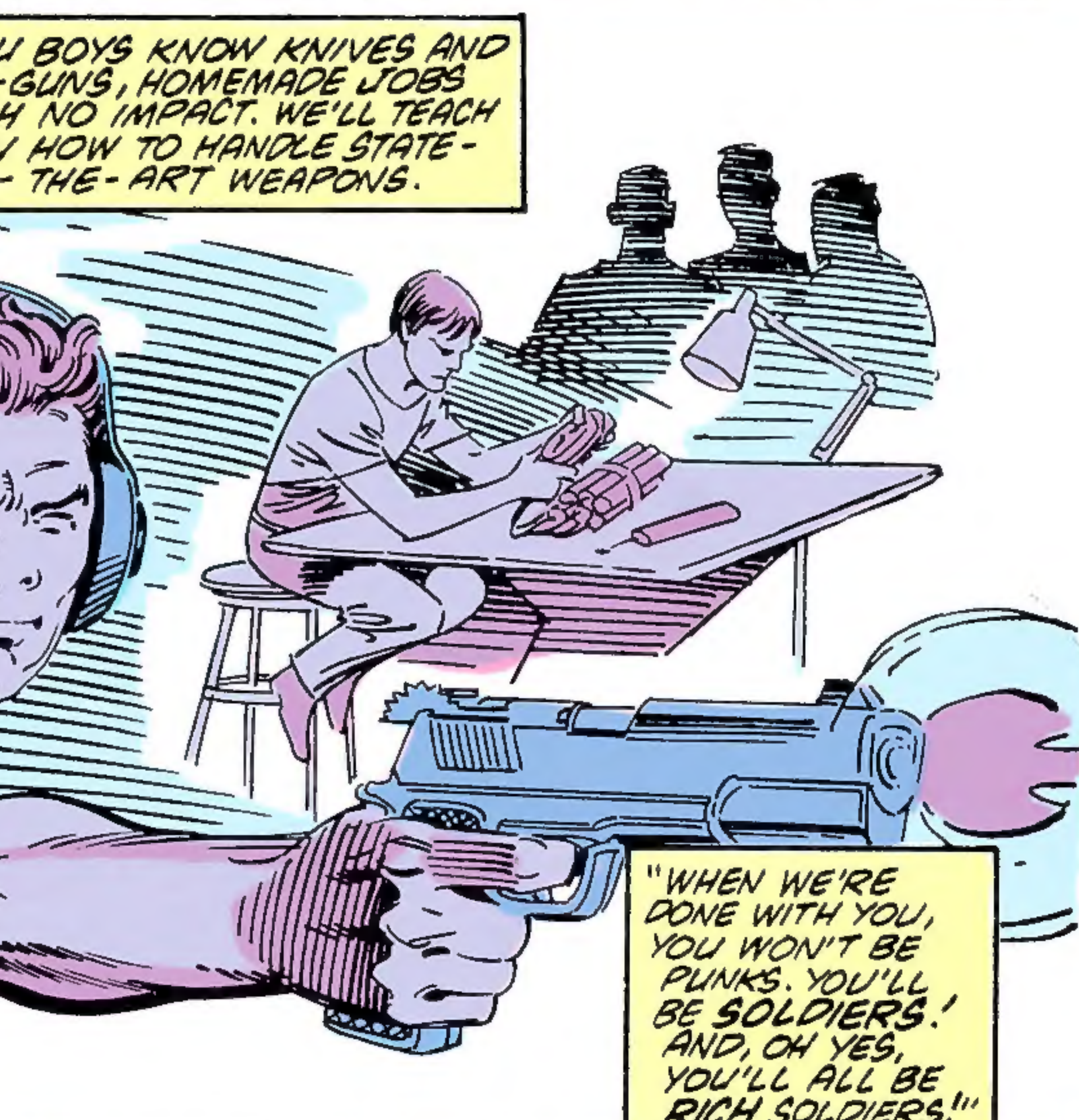
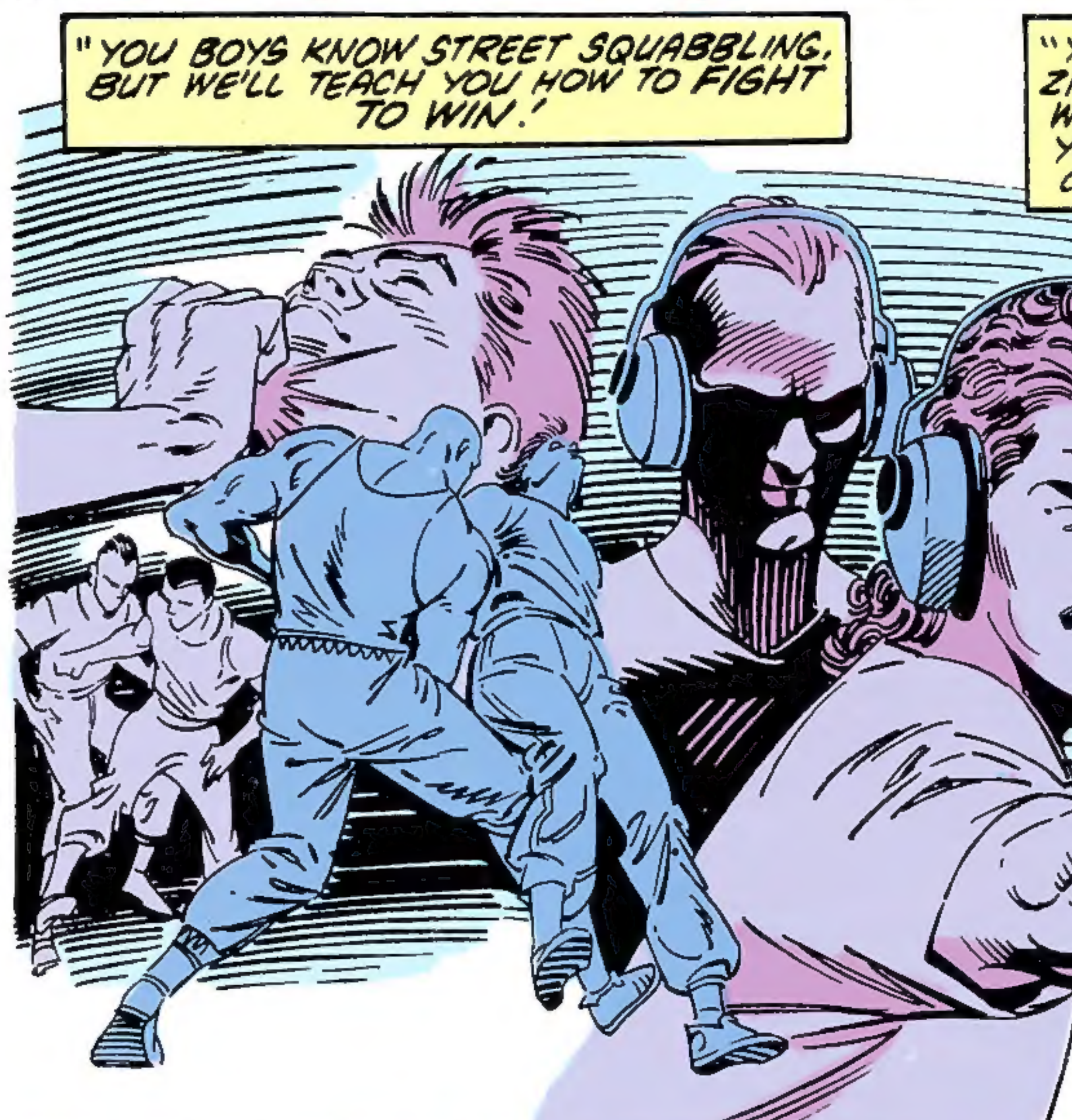
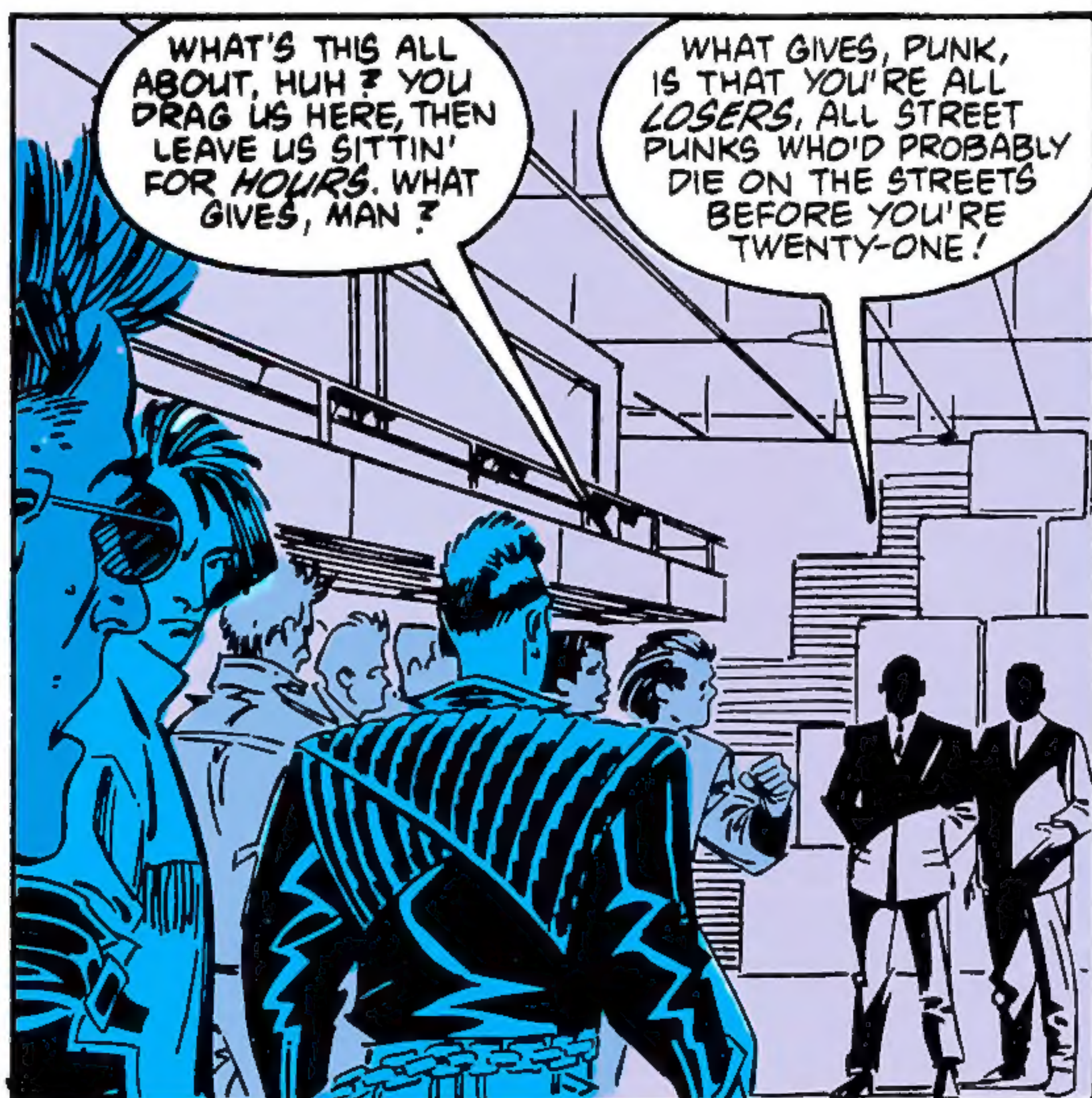


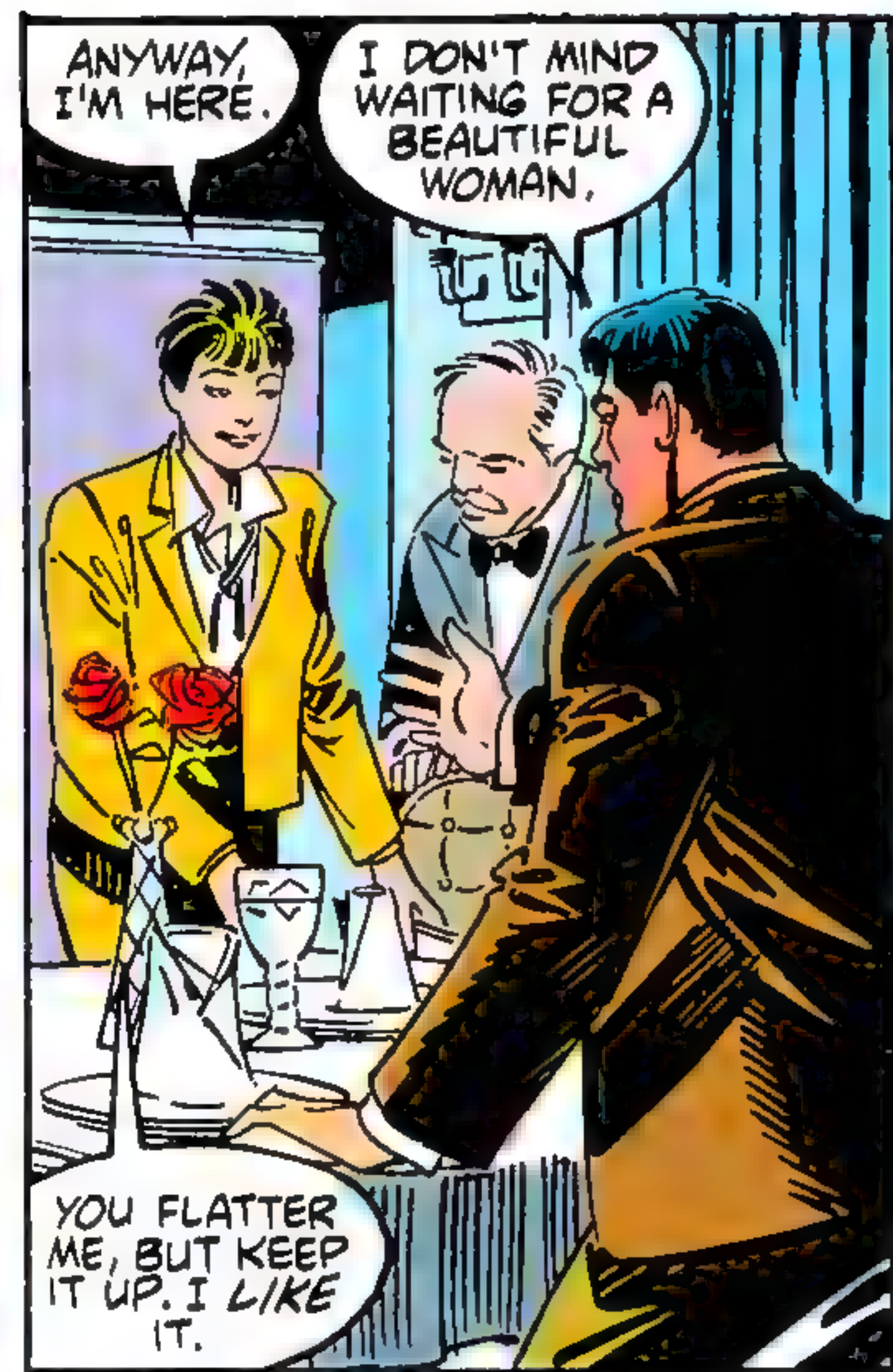


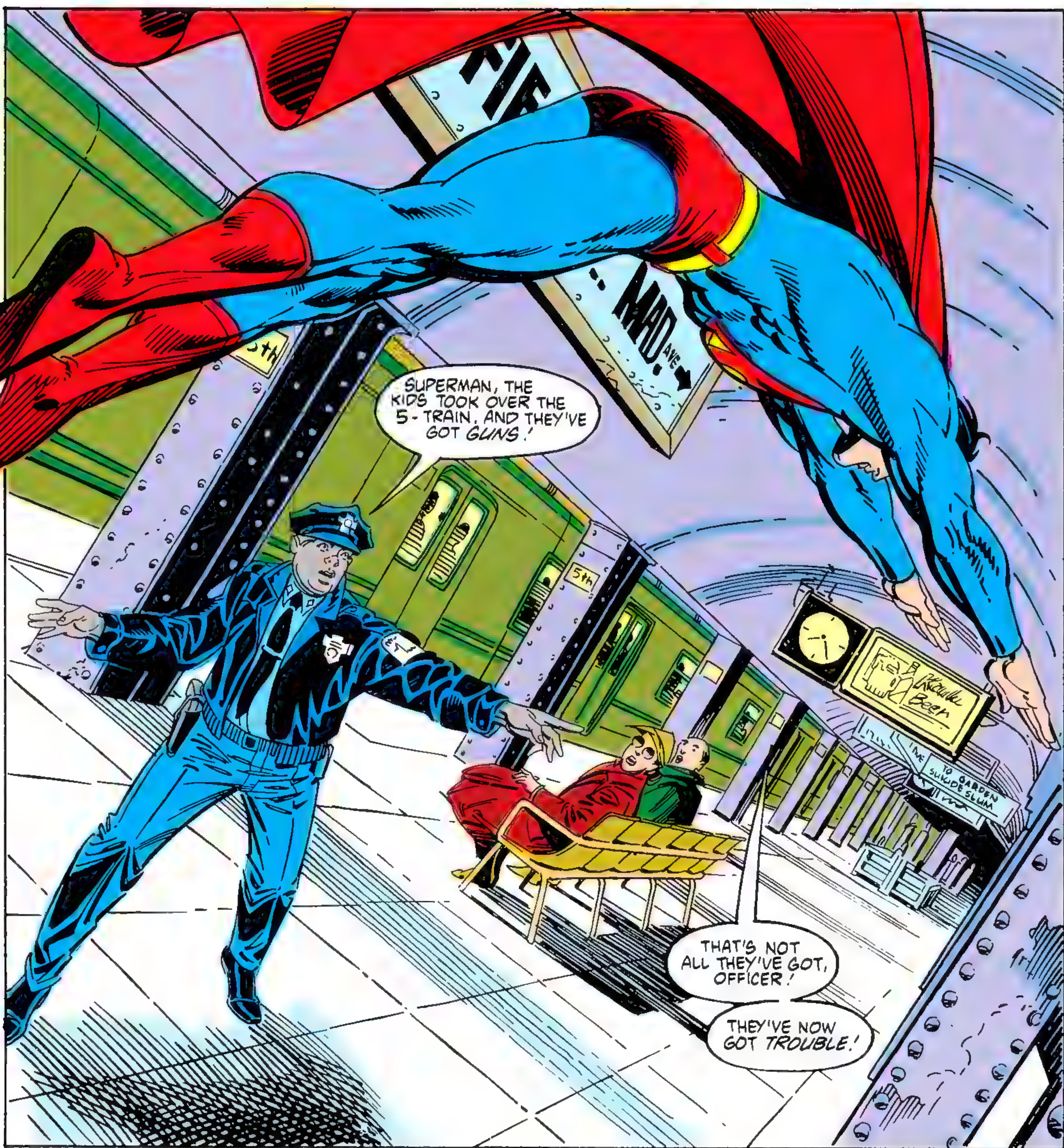
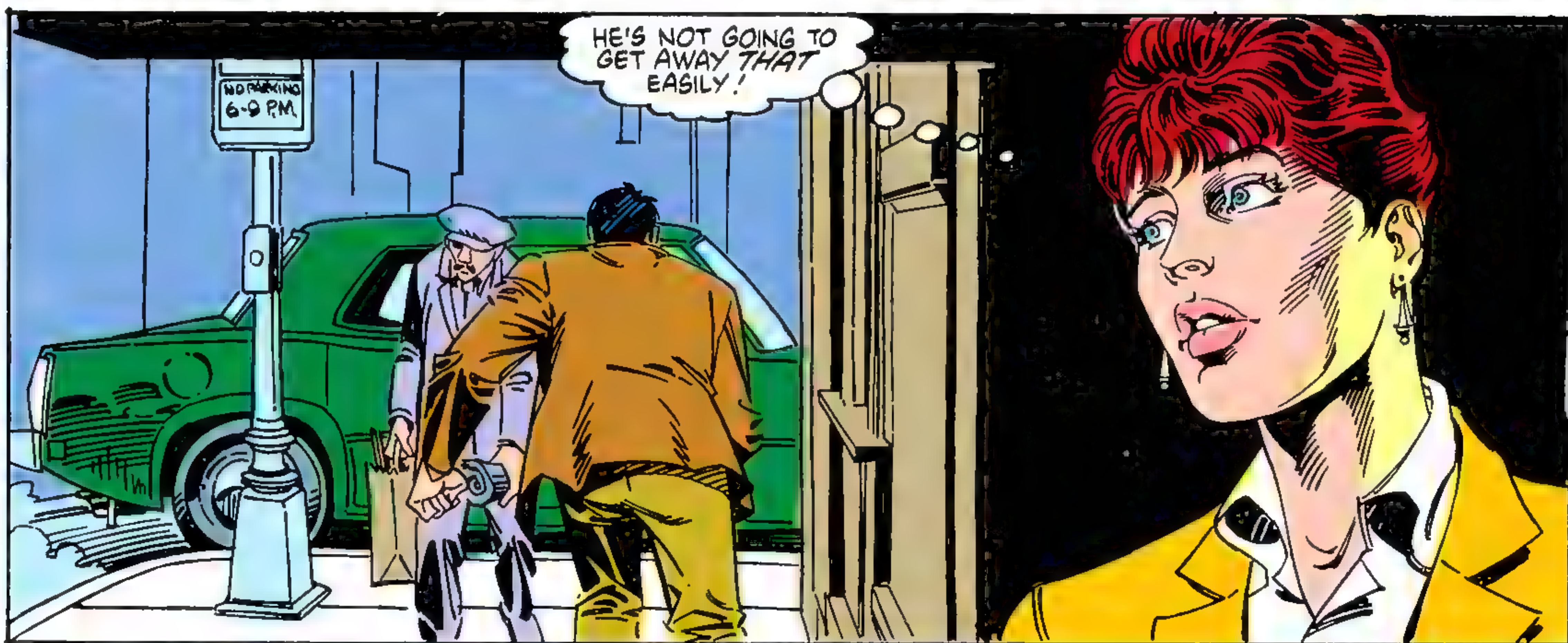


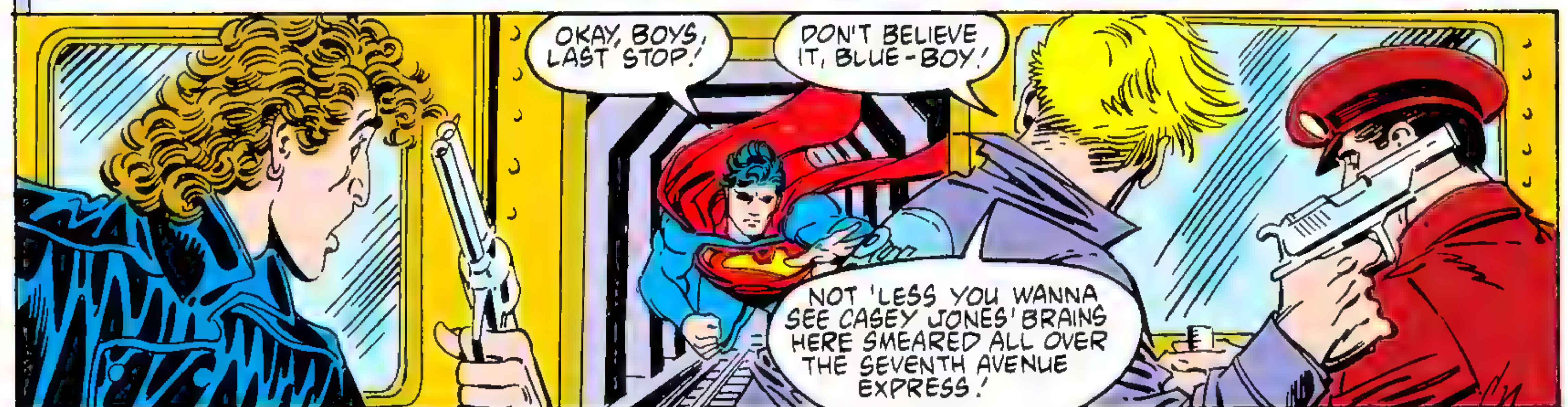
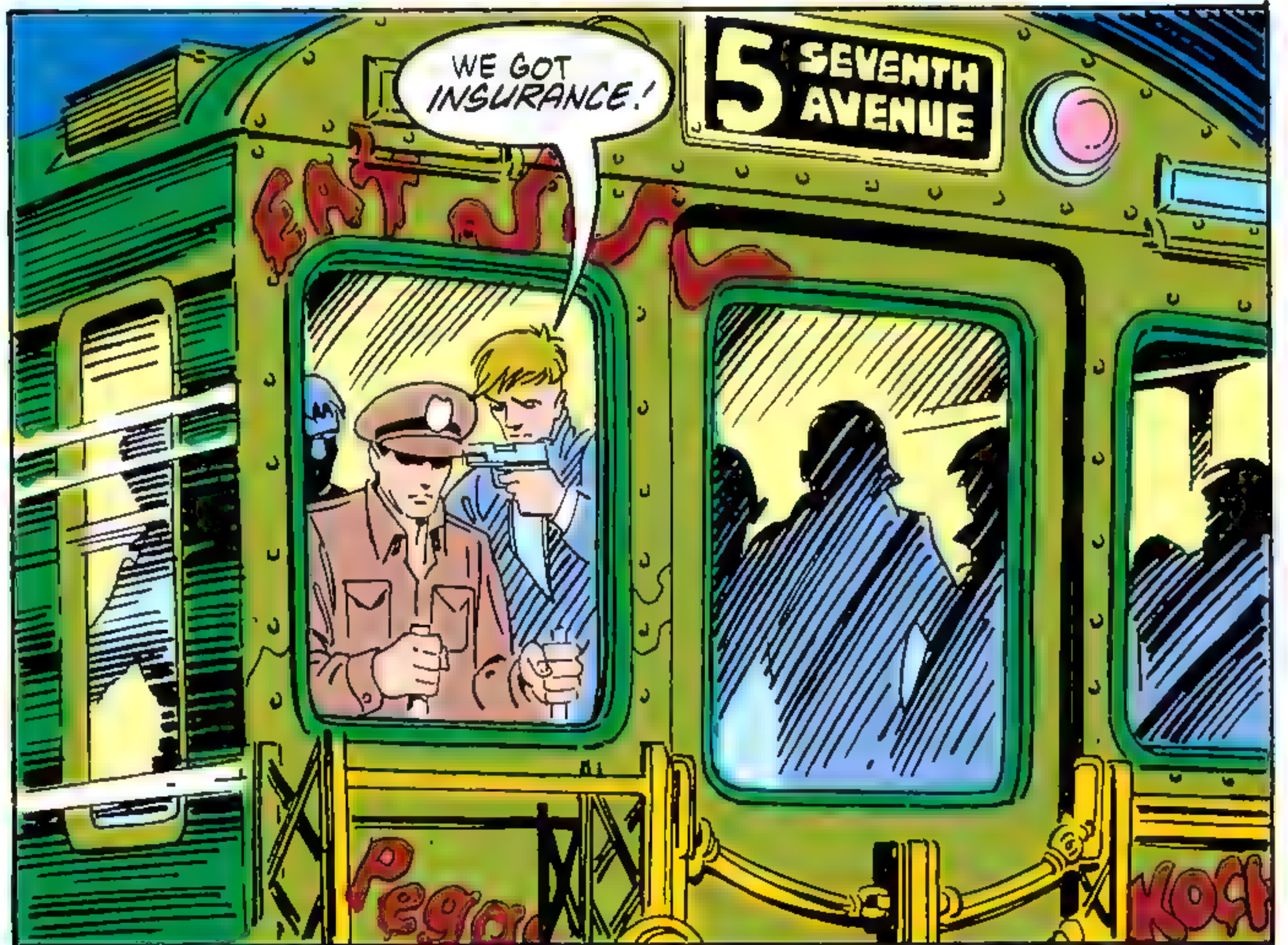
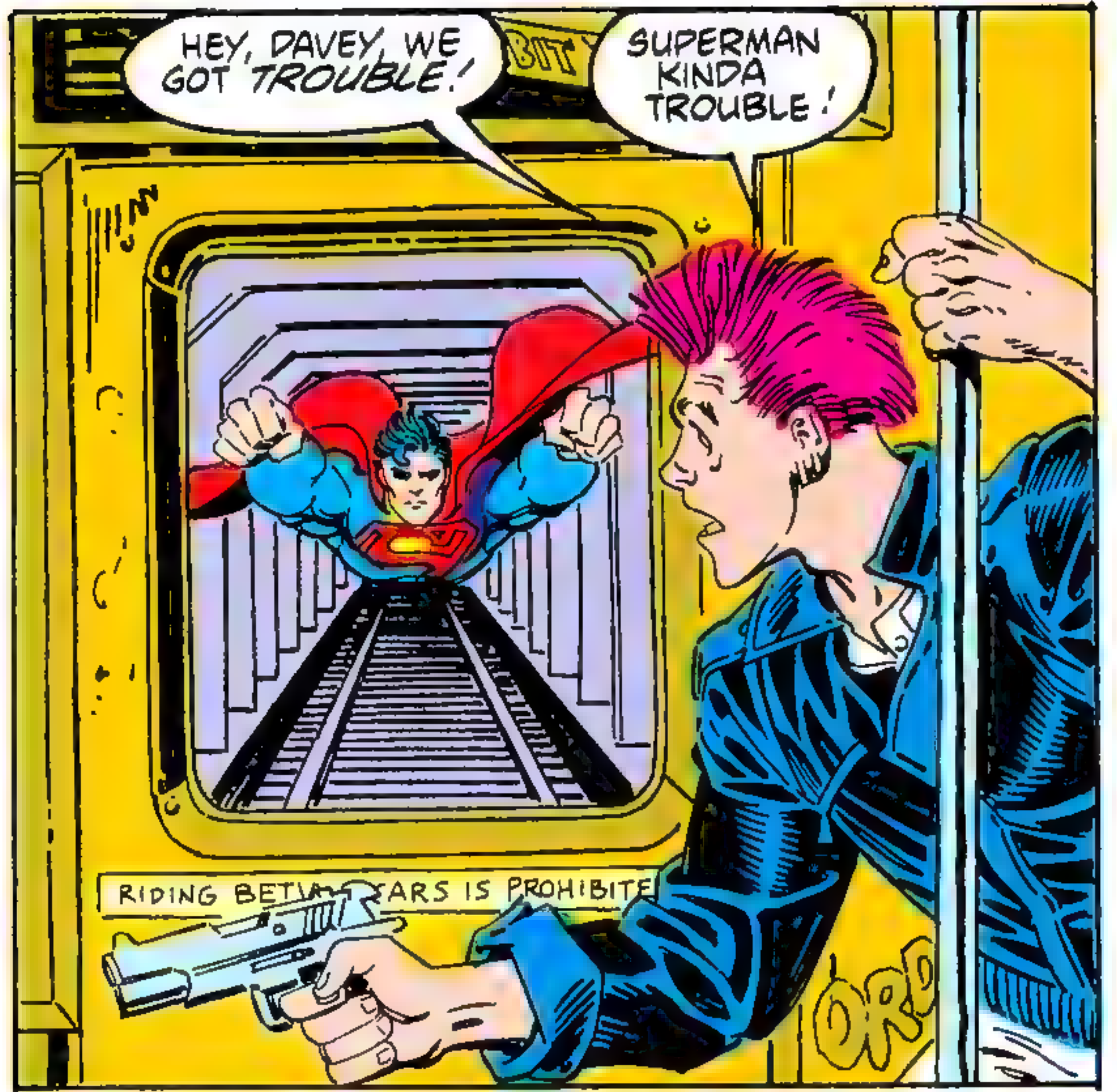


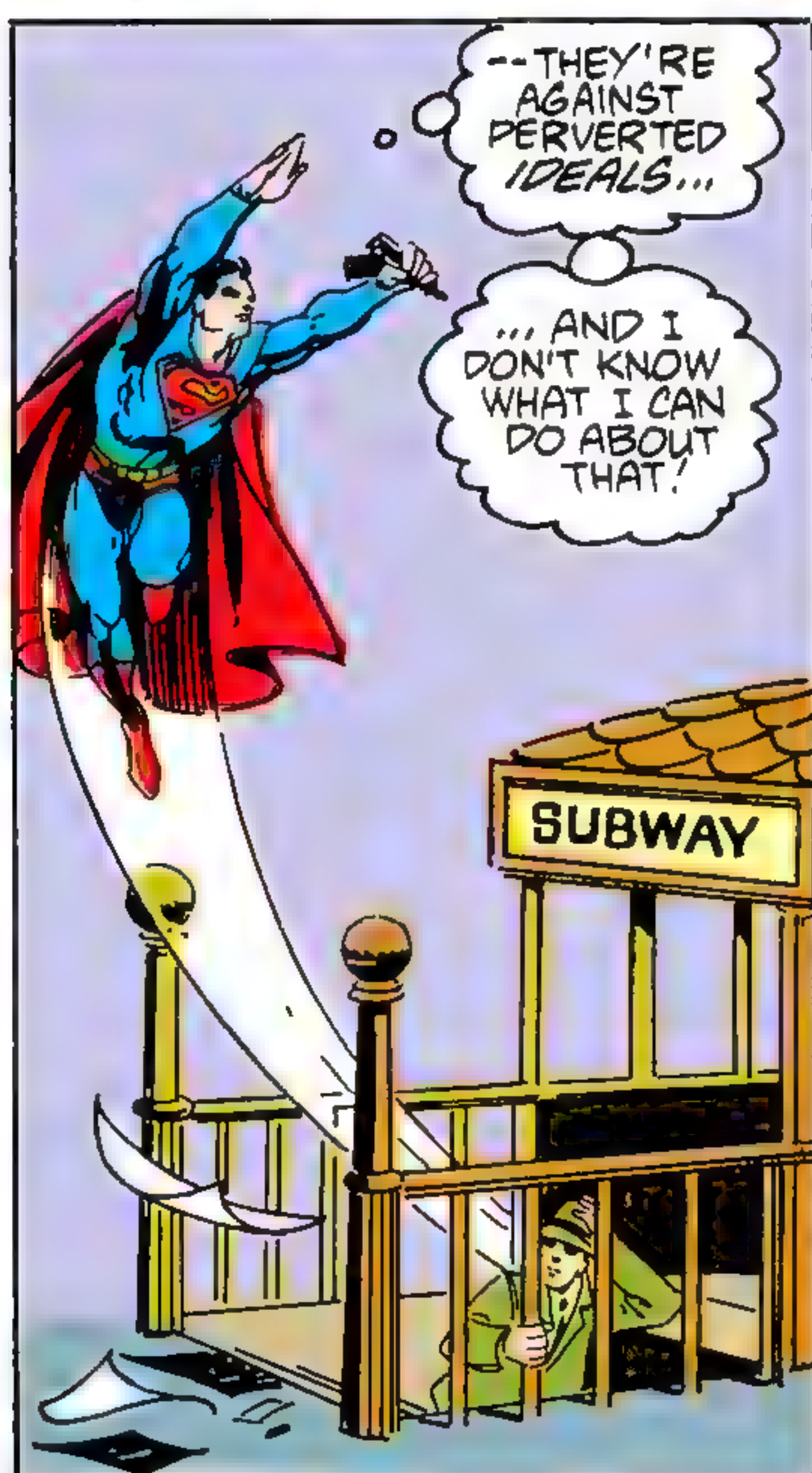
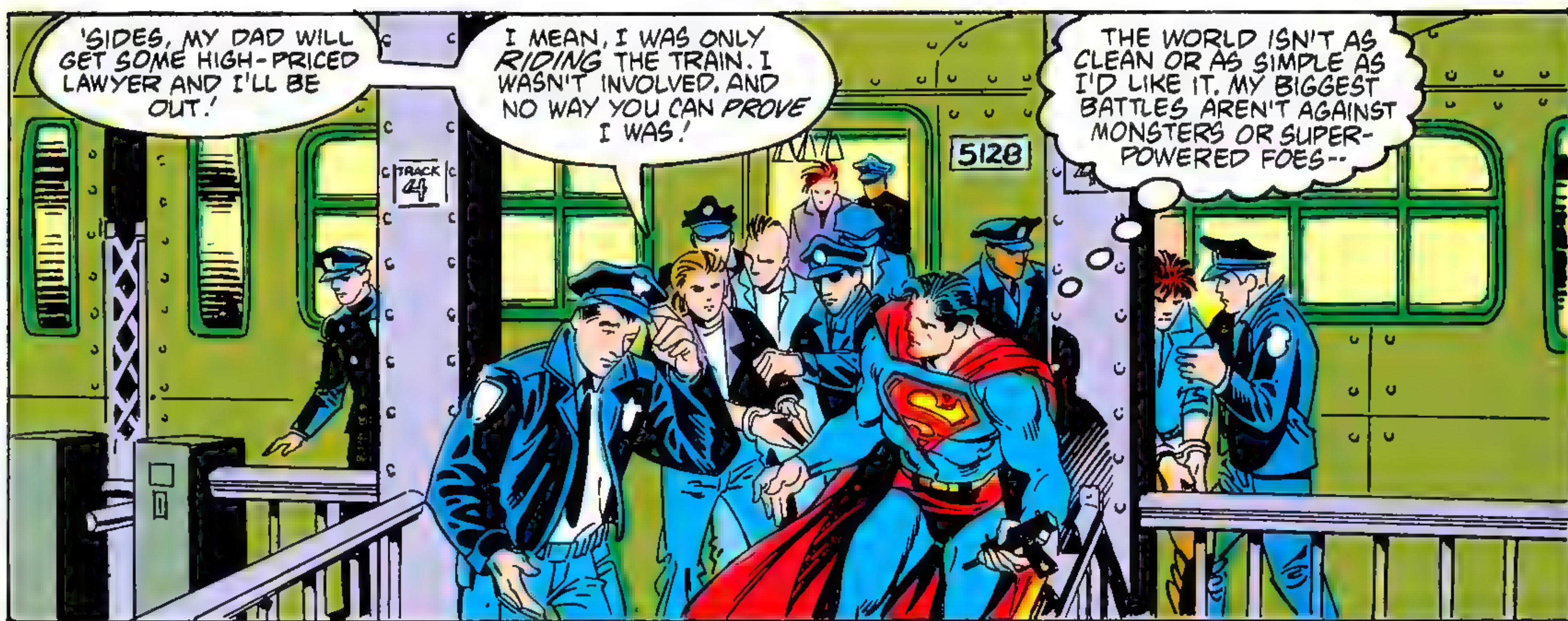












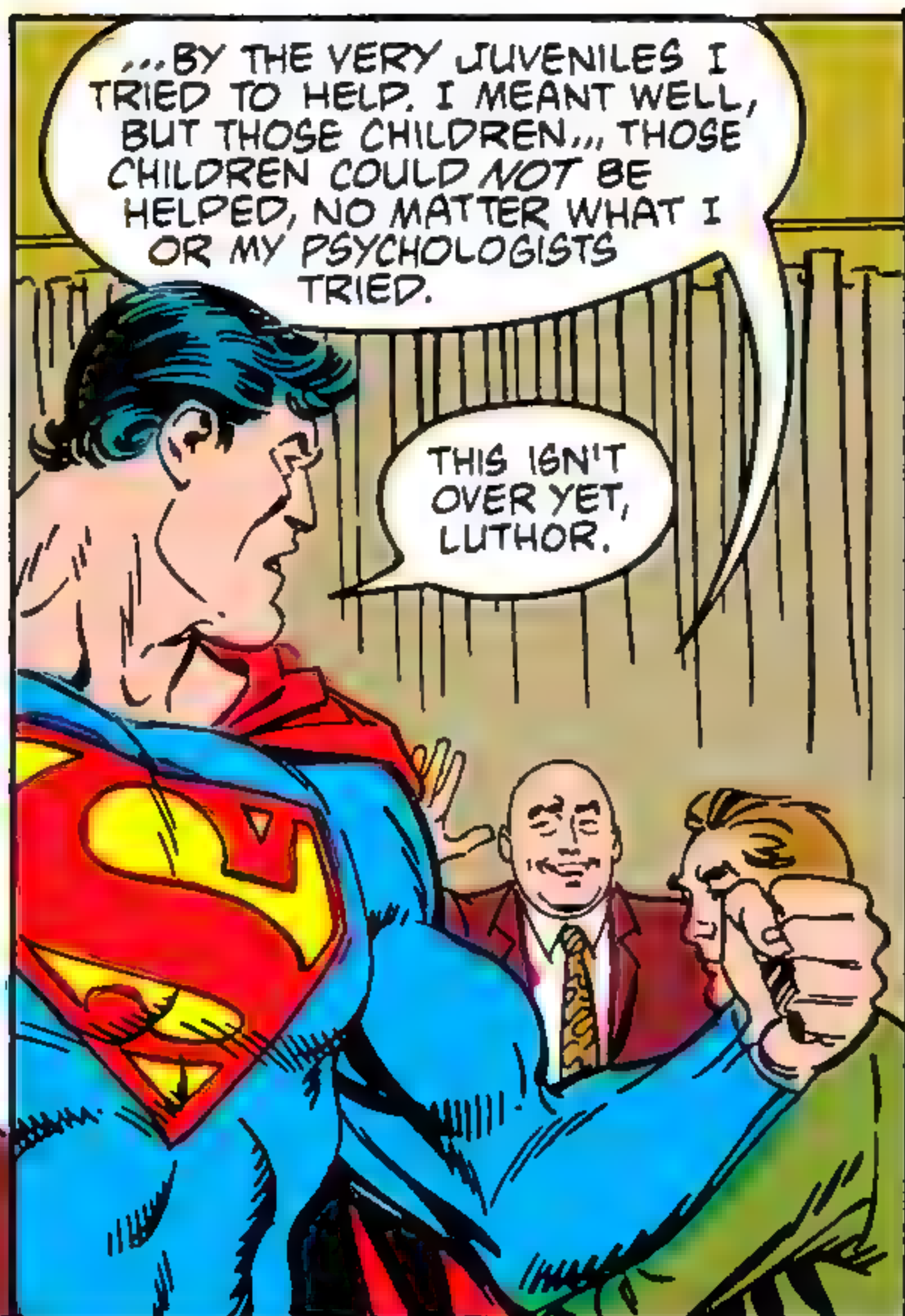


...THE VERY SAME GANG YOU TOOK INTO YOUR LITTLE TAX-DODGE SCAM TO REHABILITATE!

YES, I DO BELIEVE YOU ARE CORRECT... THIS WEAPON DOES BELONG TO LEXCORP.

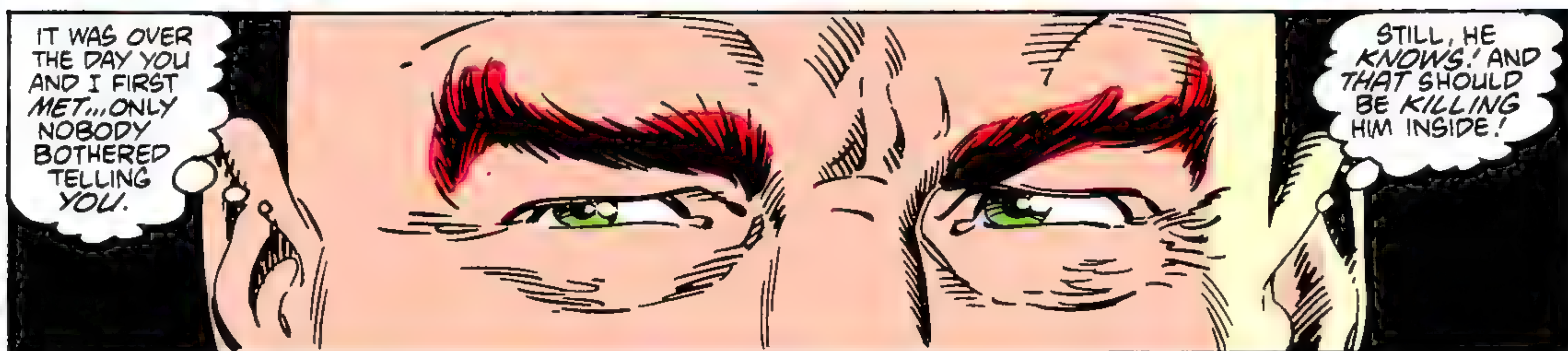


BUT, IF YOU SPENT MORE TIME THINKING WITH YOUR BRAINS THAN YOUR BICEPS, YOU MIGHT HAVE DISCOVERED I REPORTED THESE WEAPONS AS STOLEN...



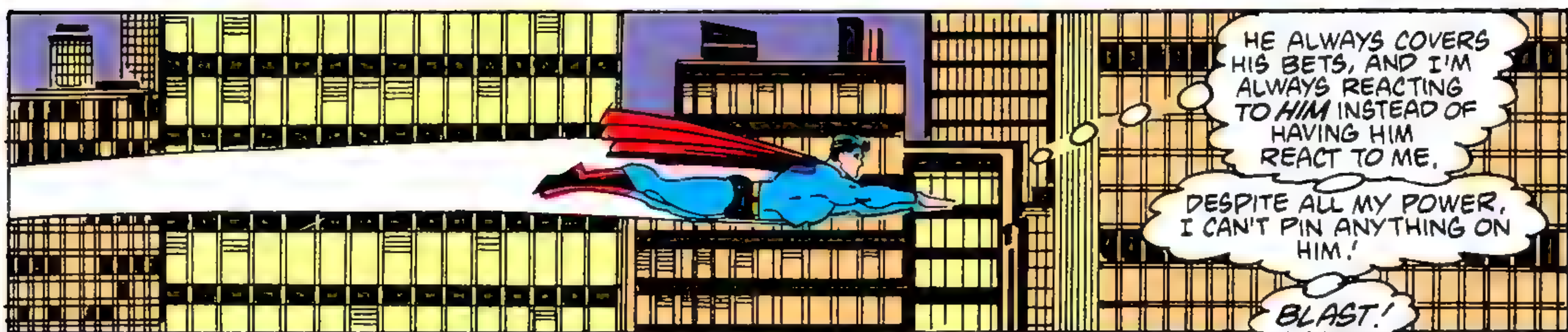
...BY THE VERY JUVENILES I TRIED TO HELP. I MEANT WELL, BUT THOSE CHILDREN... THOSE CHILDREN COULD NOT BE HELPED, NO MATTER WHAT I OR MY PSYCHOLOGISTS TRIED.

THIS ISN'T OVER YET, LUTHOR.



IT WAS OVER THE DAY YOU AND I FIRST MET... ONLY NOBODY BOTHERED TELLING YOU.

STILL, HE KNOWS... AND THAT SHOULD BE KILLING HIM INSIDE!



HE ALWAYS COVERS HIS BETS, AND I'M ALWAYS REACTING TO HIM INSTEAD OF HAVING HIM REACT TO ME.

DESPITE ALL MY POWER, I CAN'T PIN ANYTHING ON HIM!

BLAST!



A CARPET WAREHOUSE? WHY IS HE GOING HERE?

UNLESS...



BE CAREFUL, JOSE...

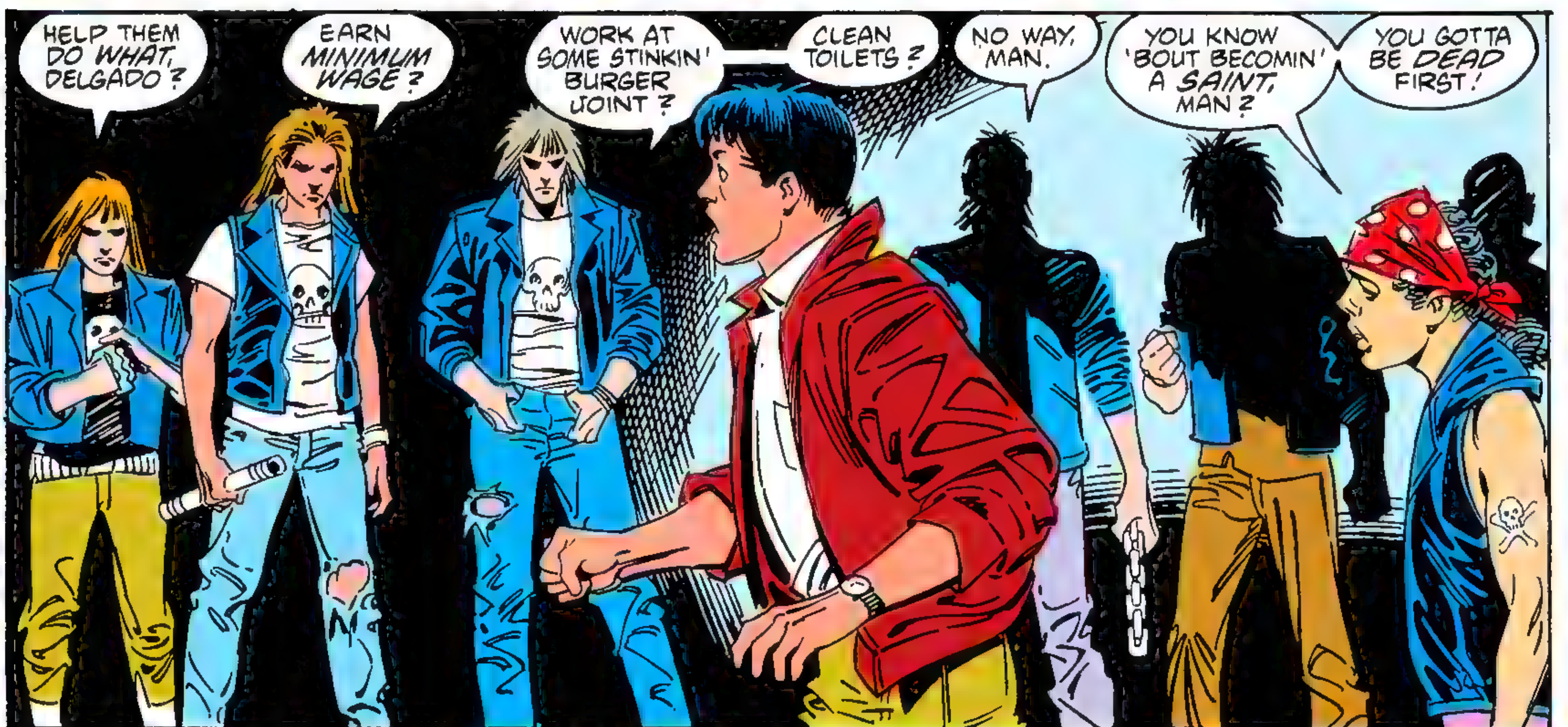
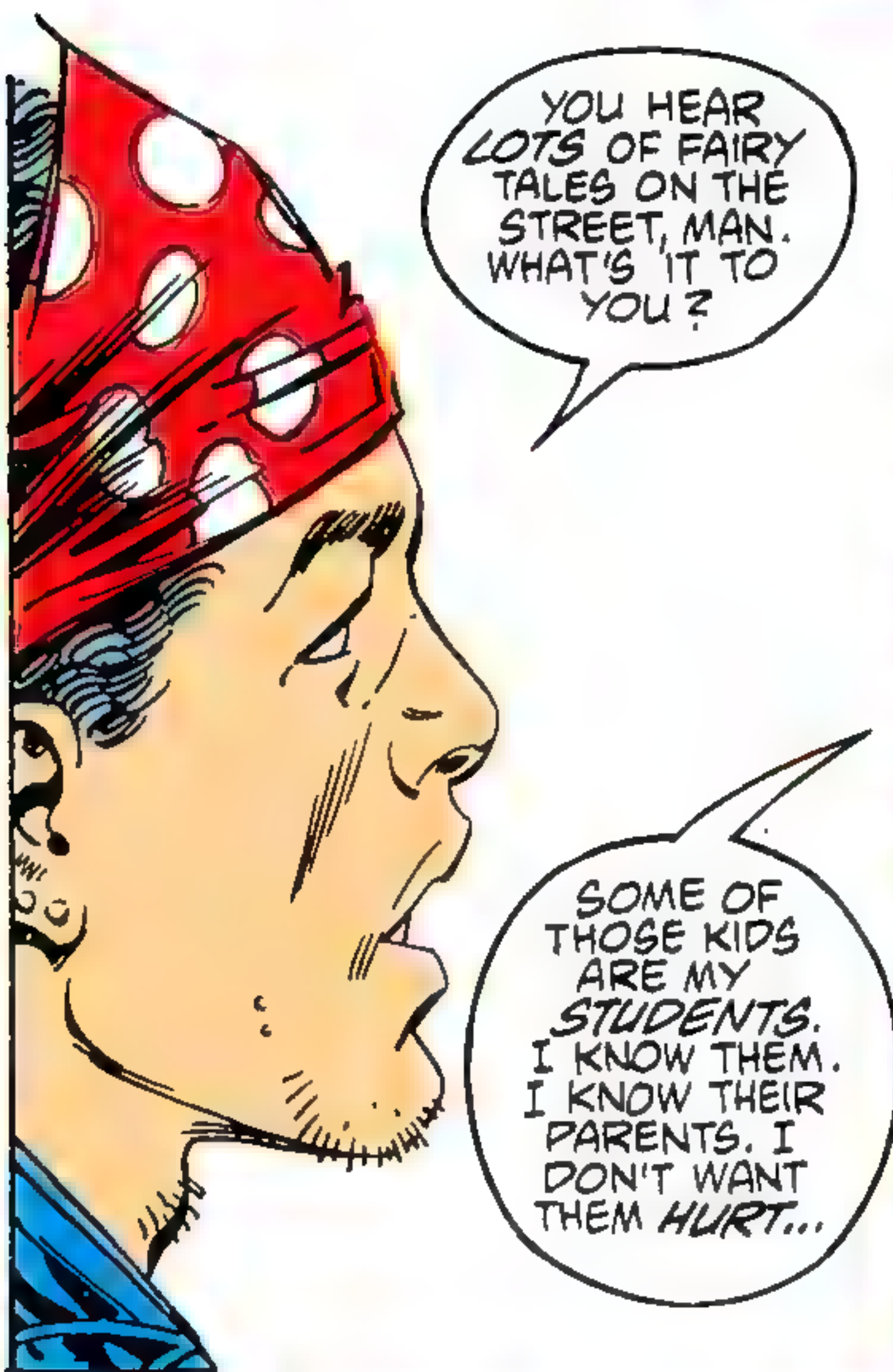
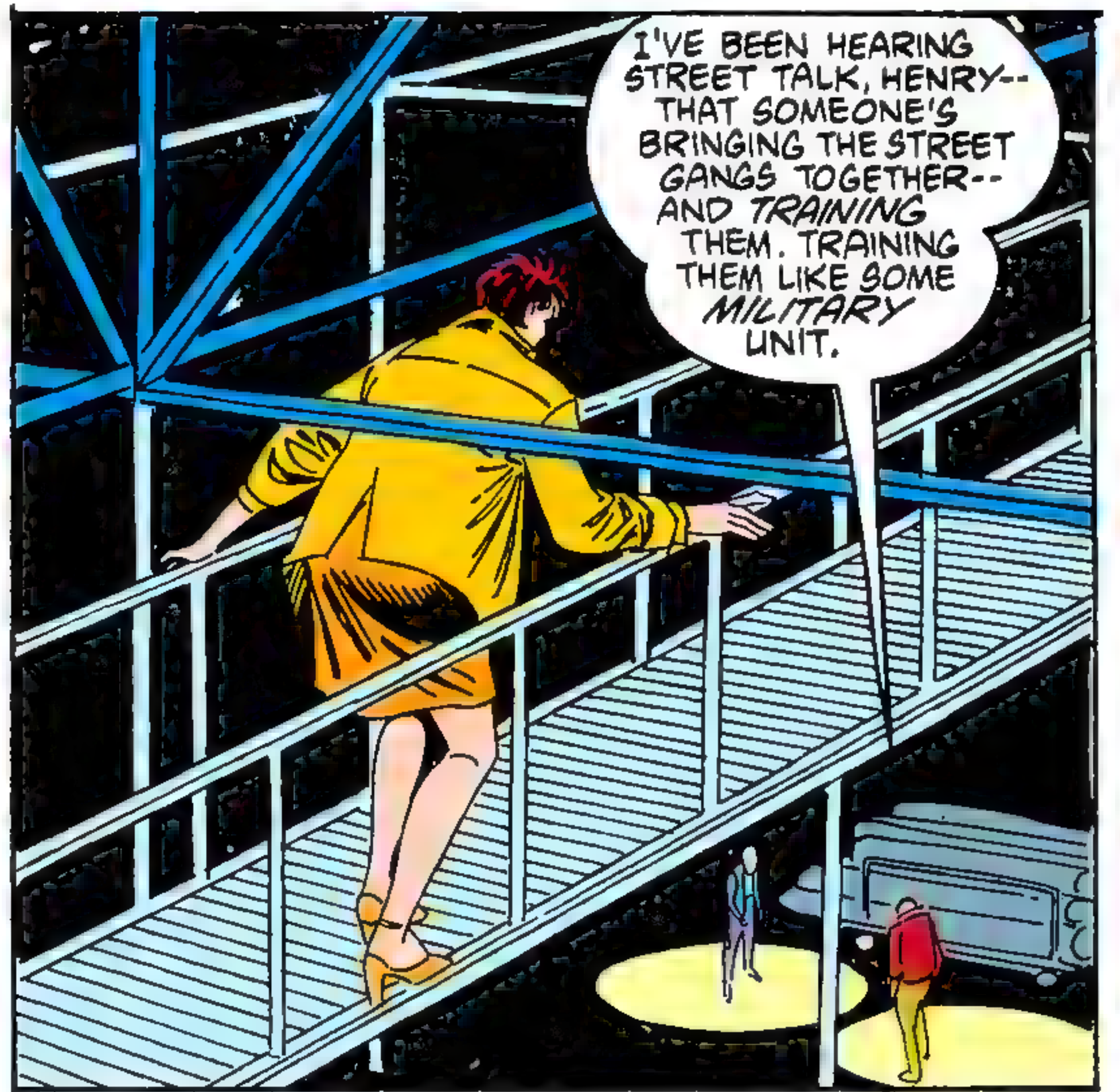
NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY BELIEVE, I DO LIKE YOU.

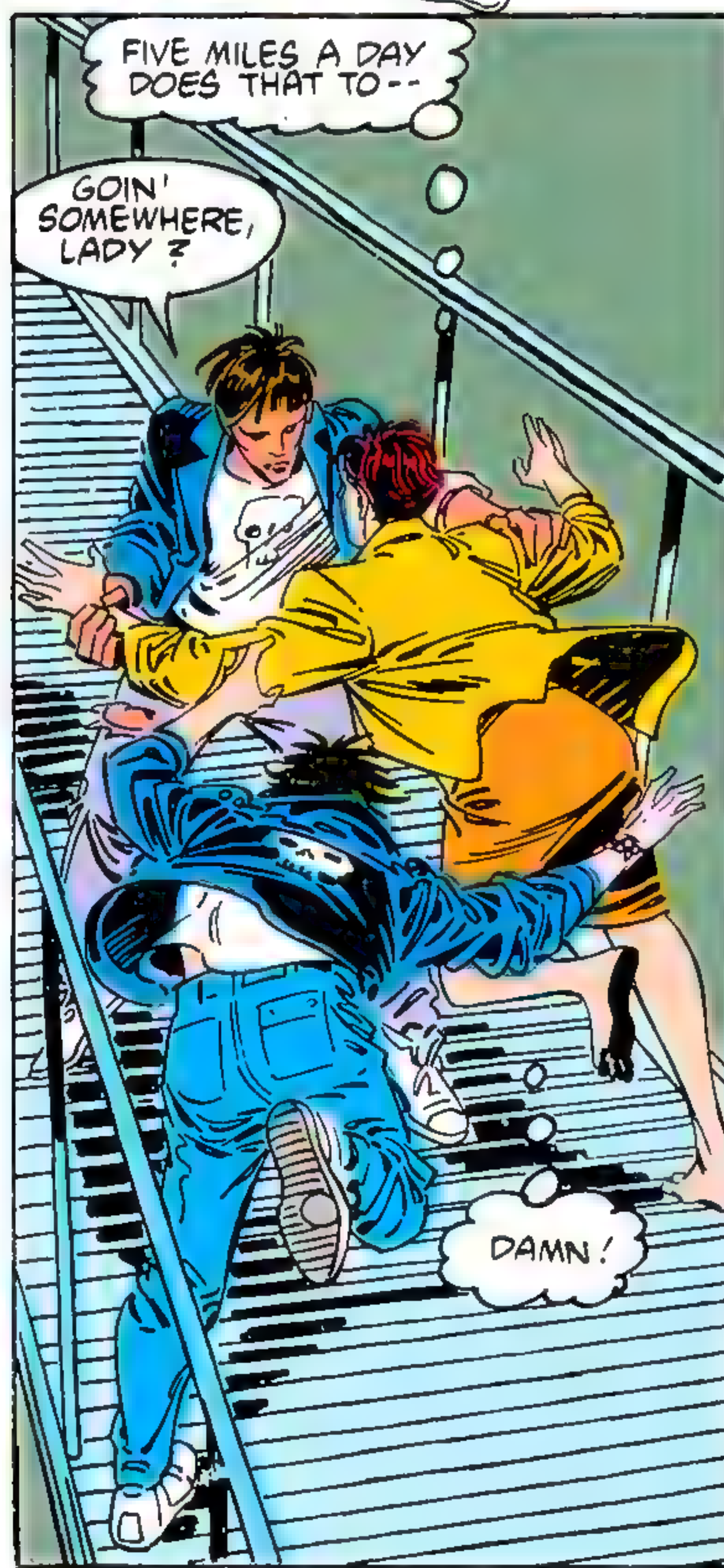
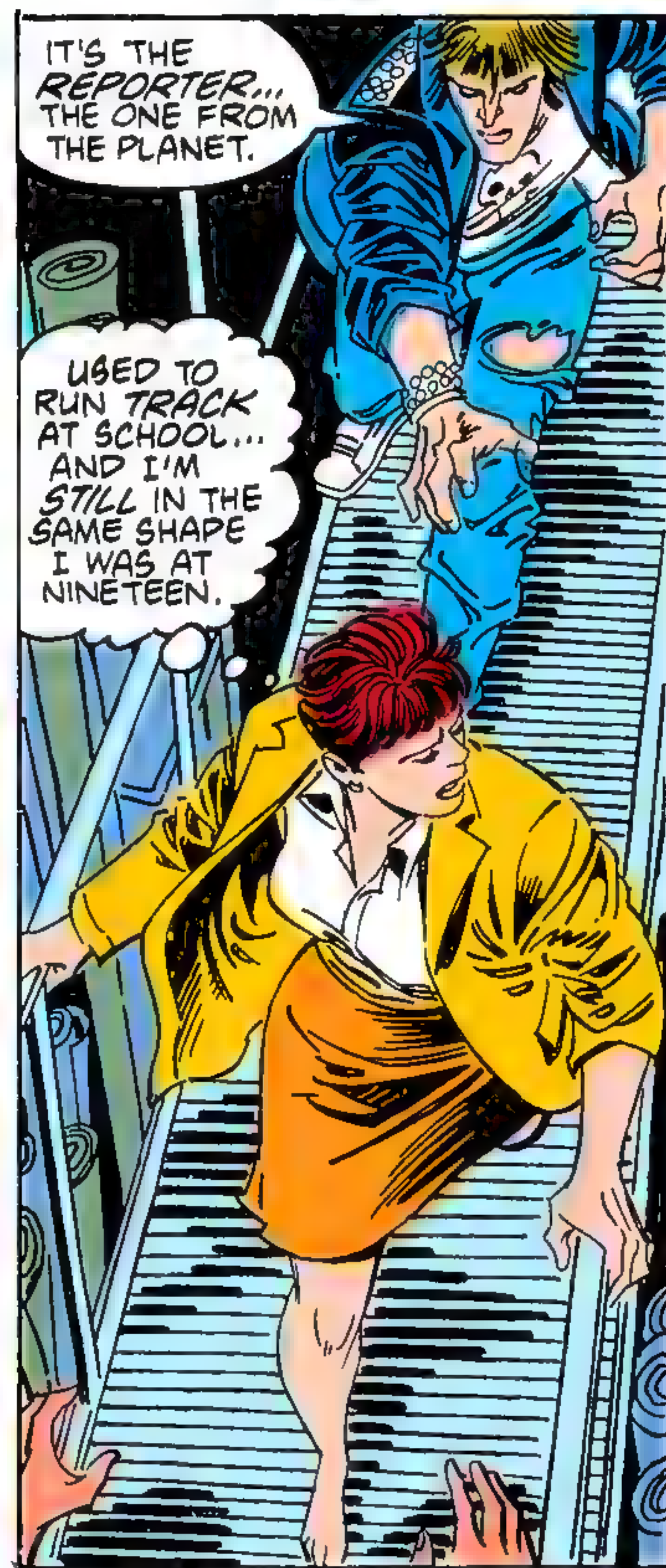
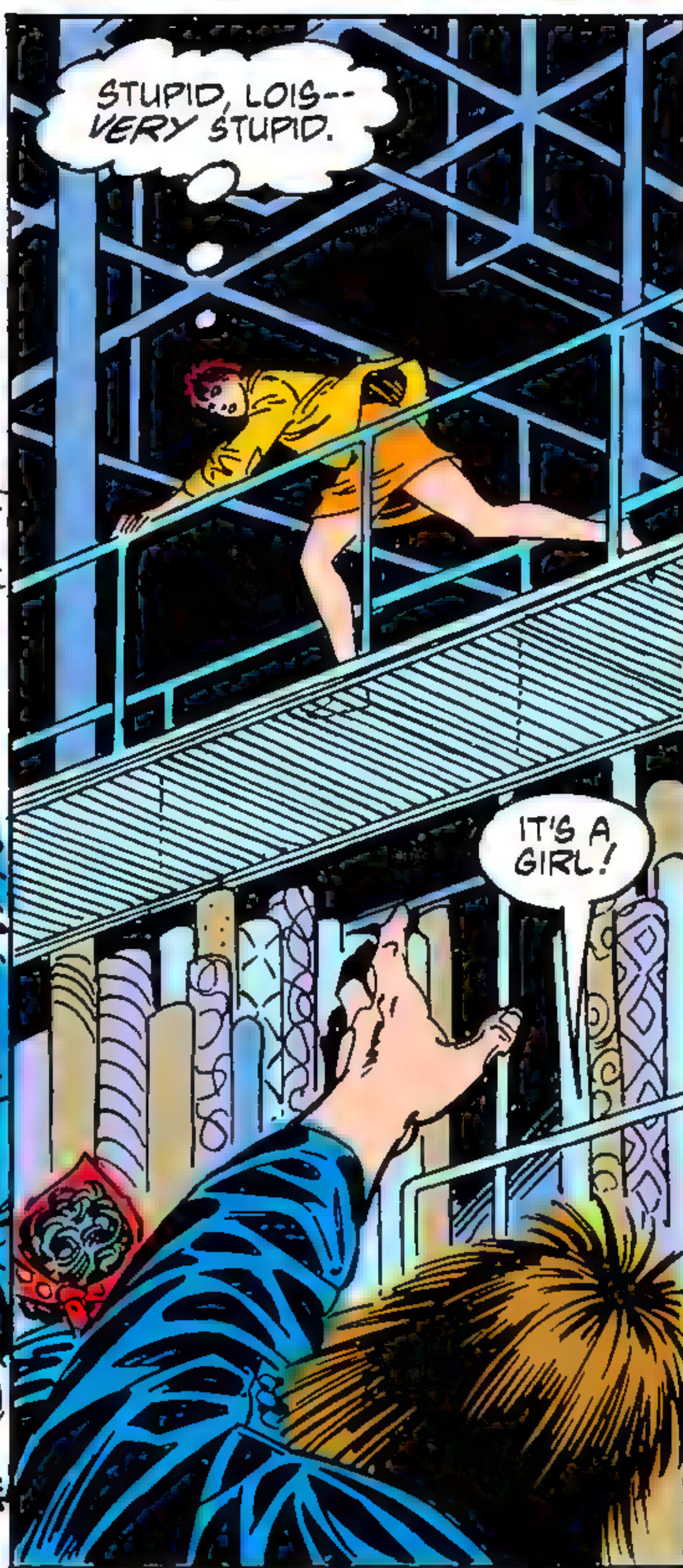
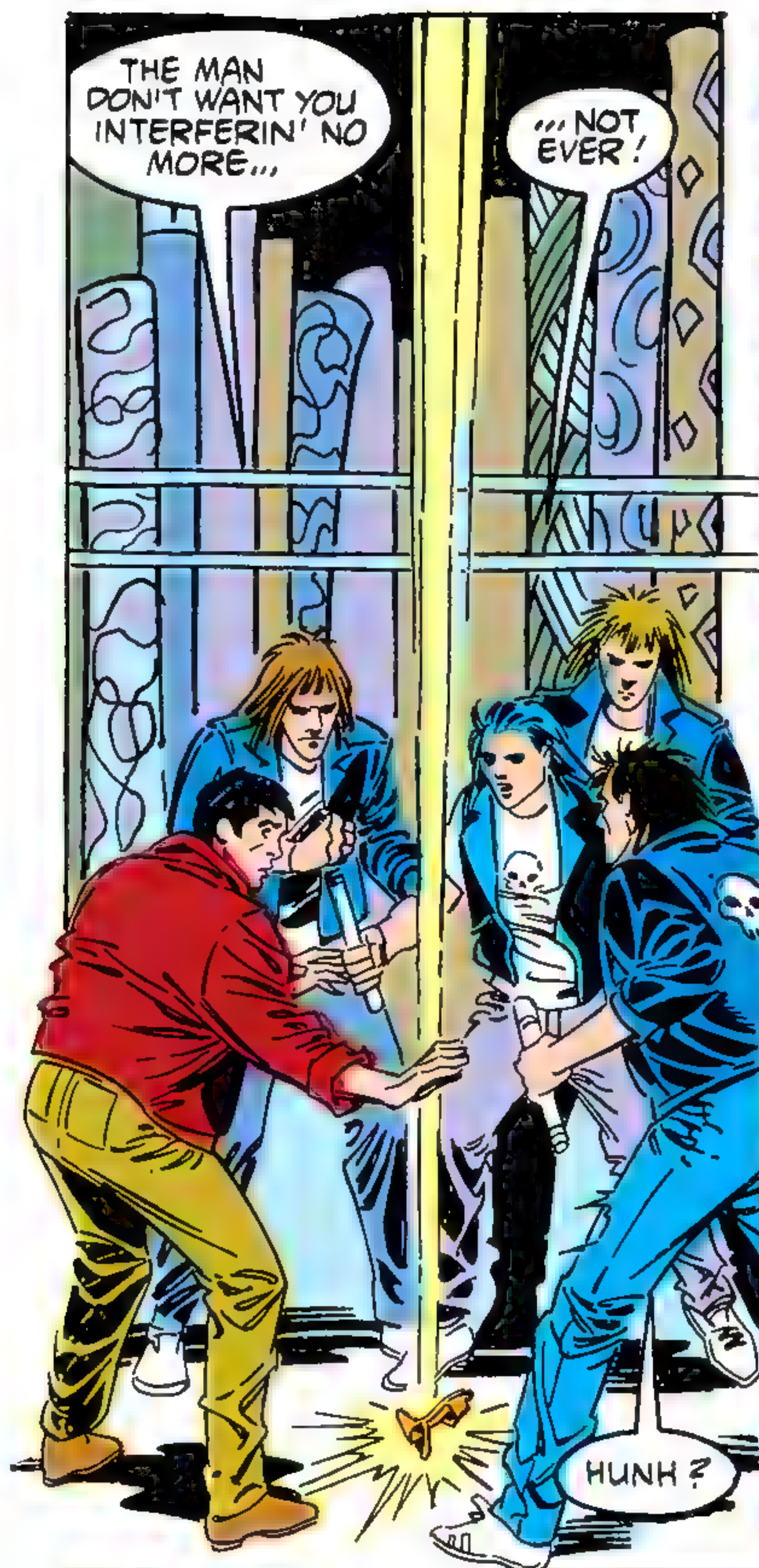


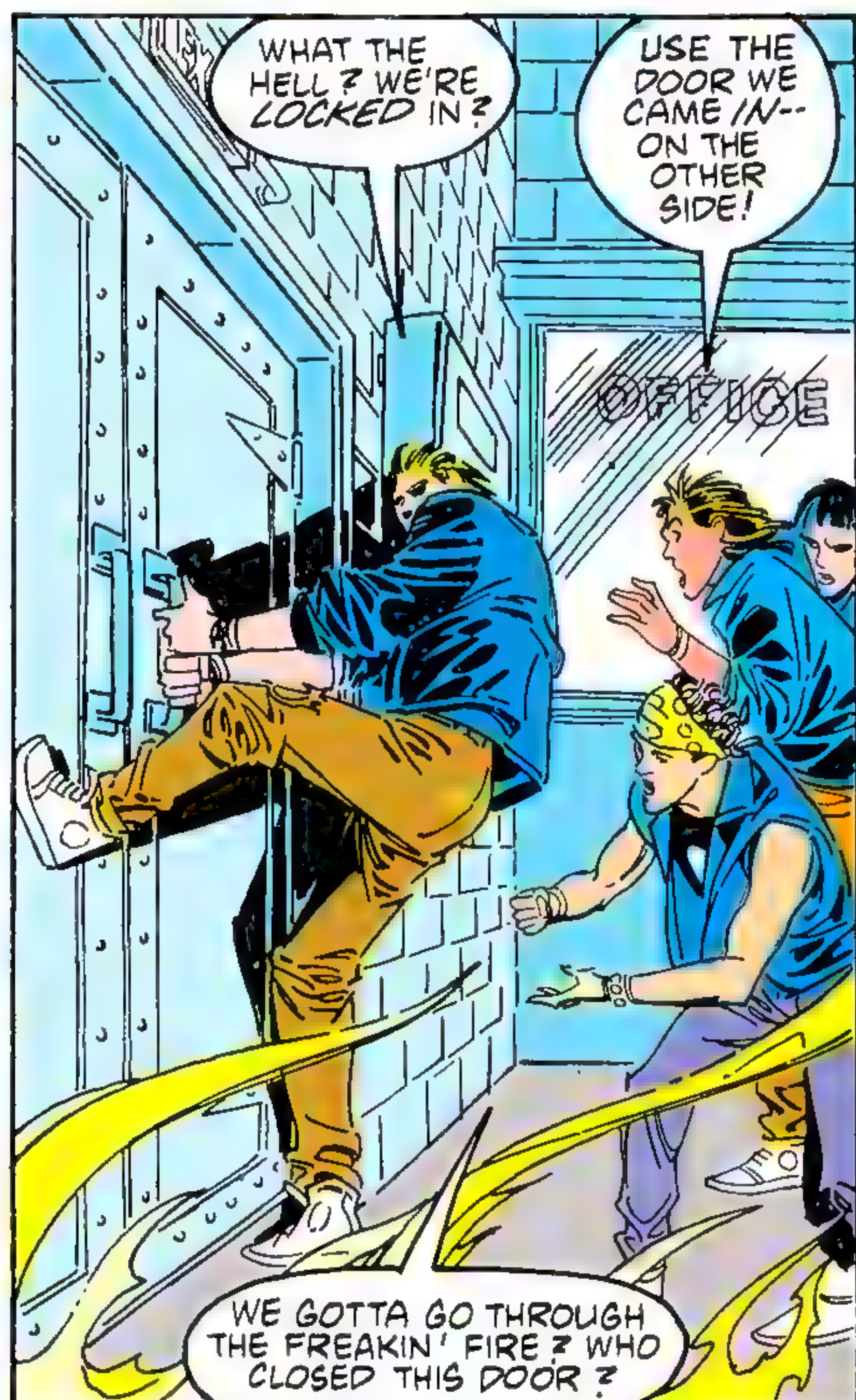
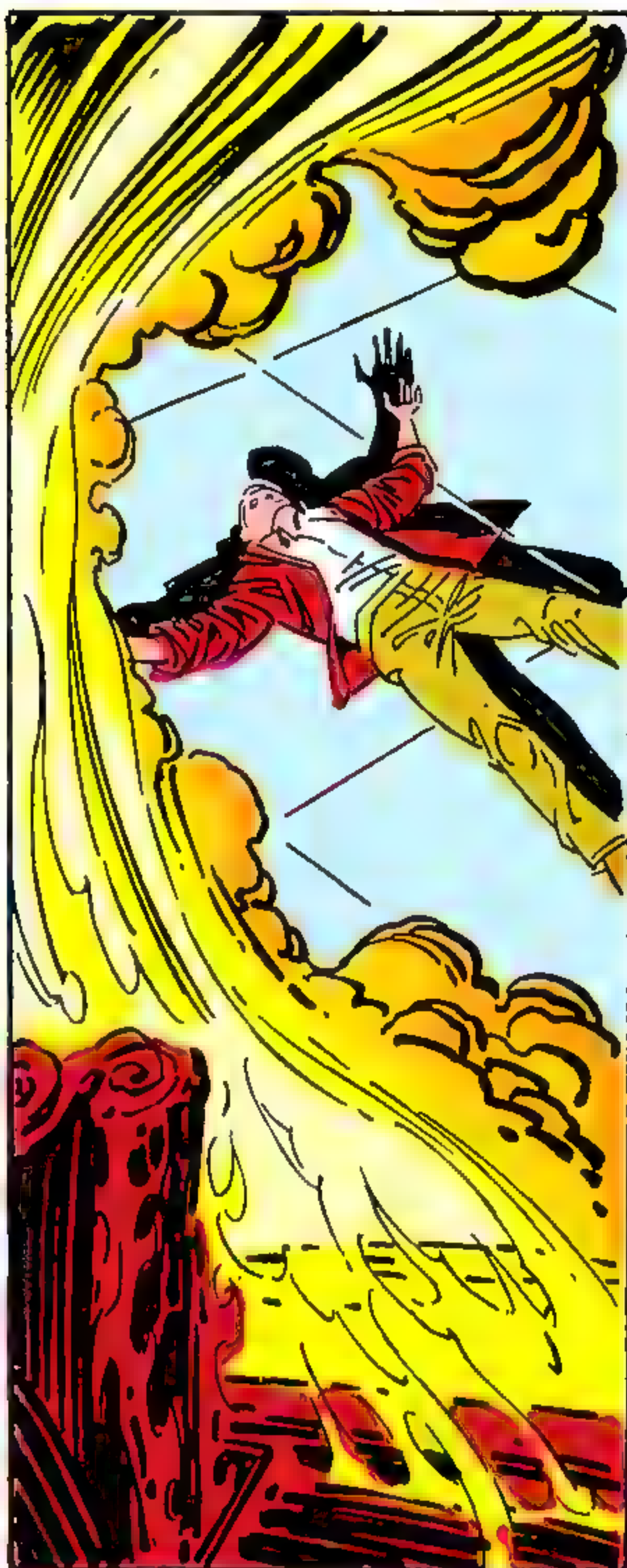
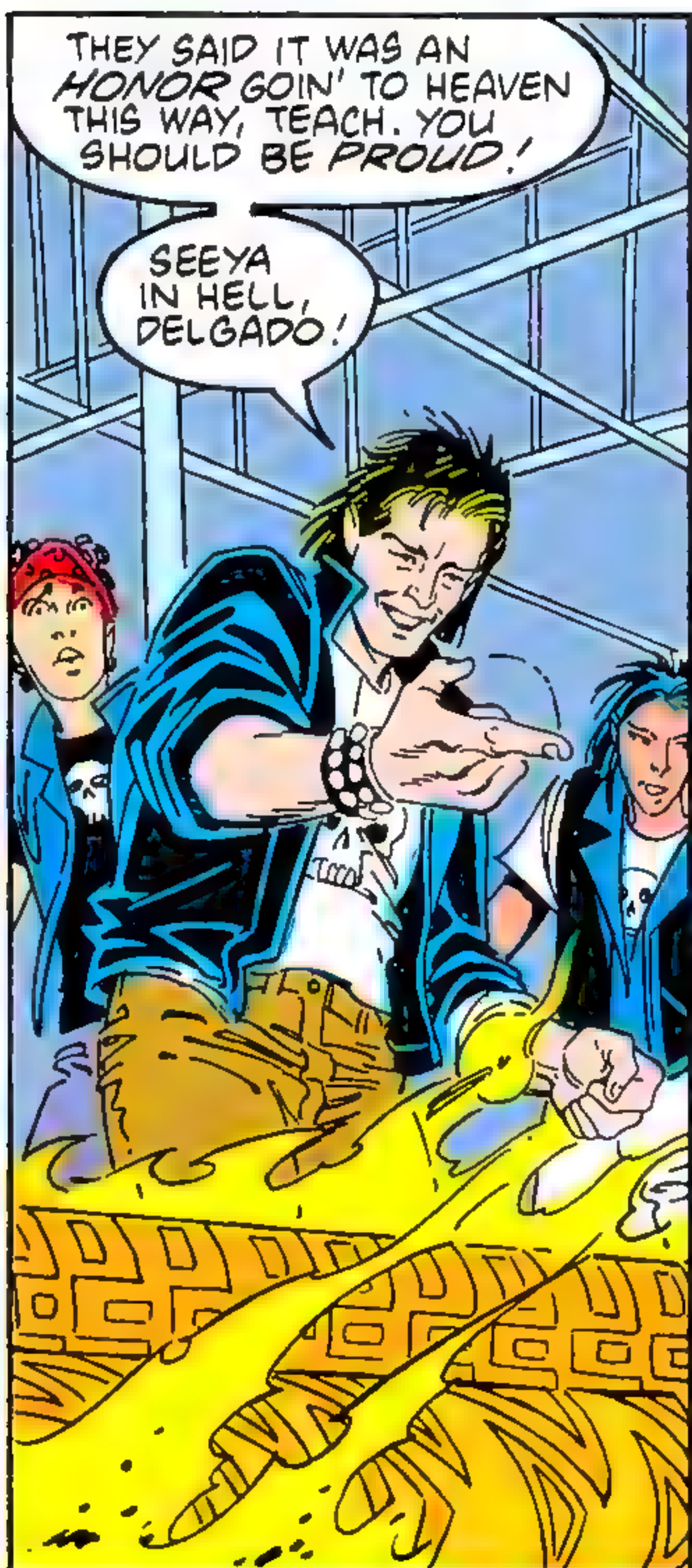
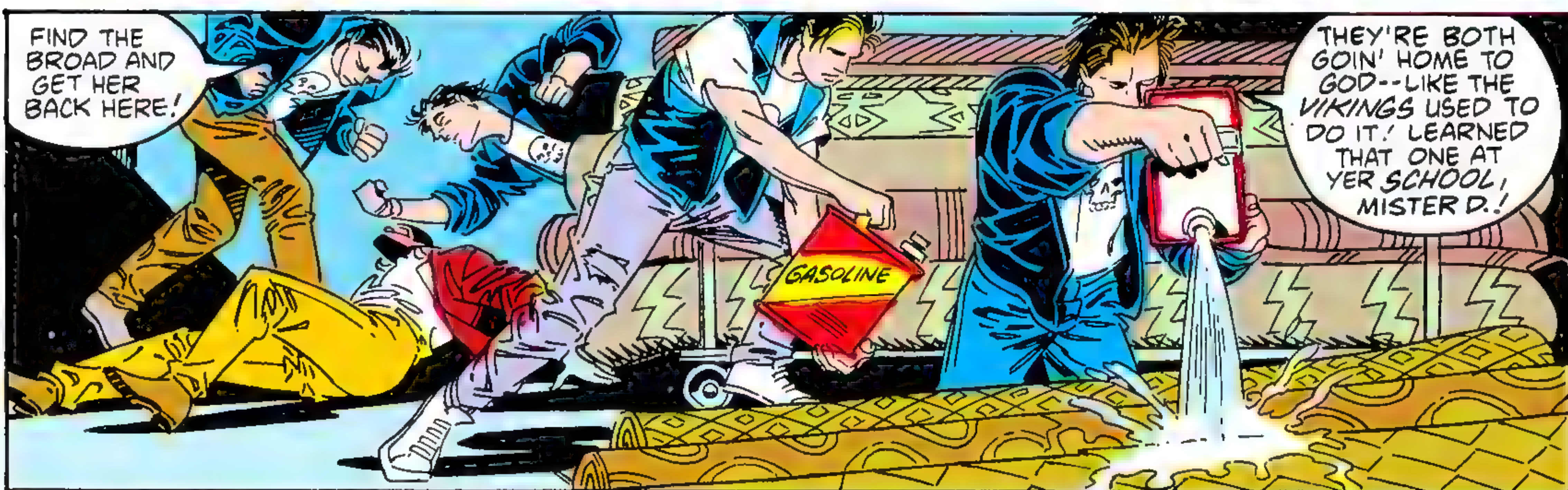
HELLO!?!?

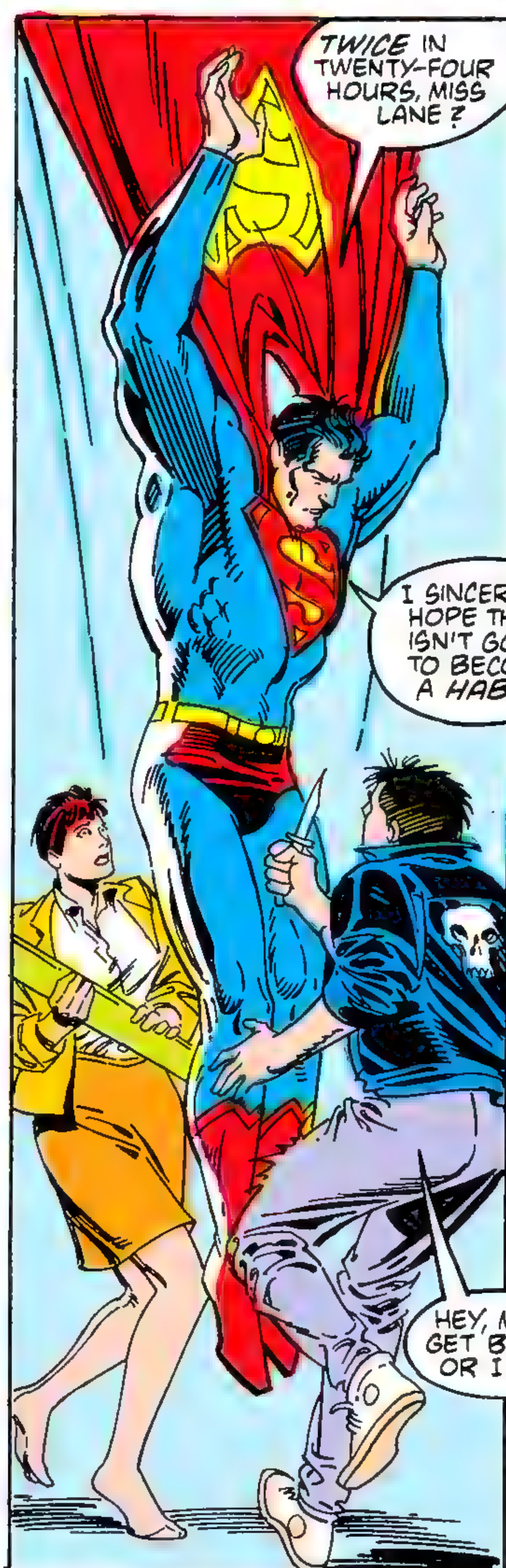
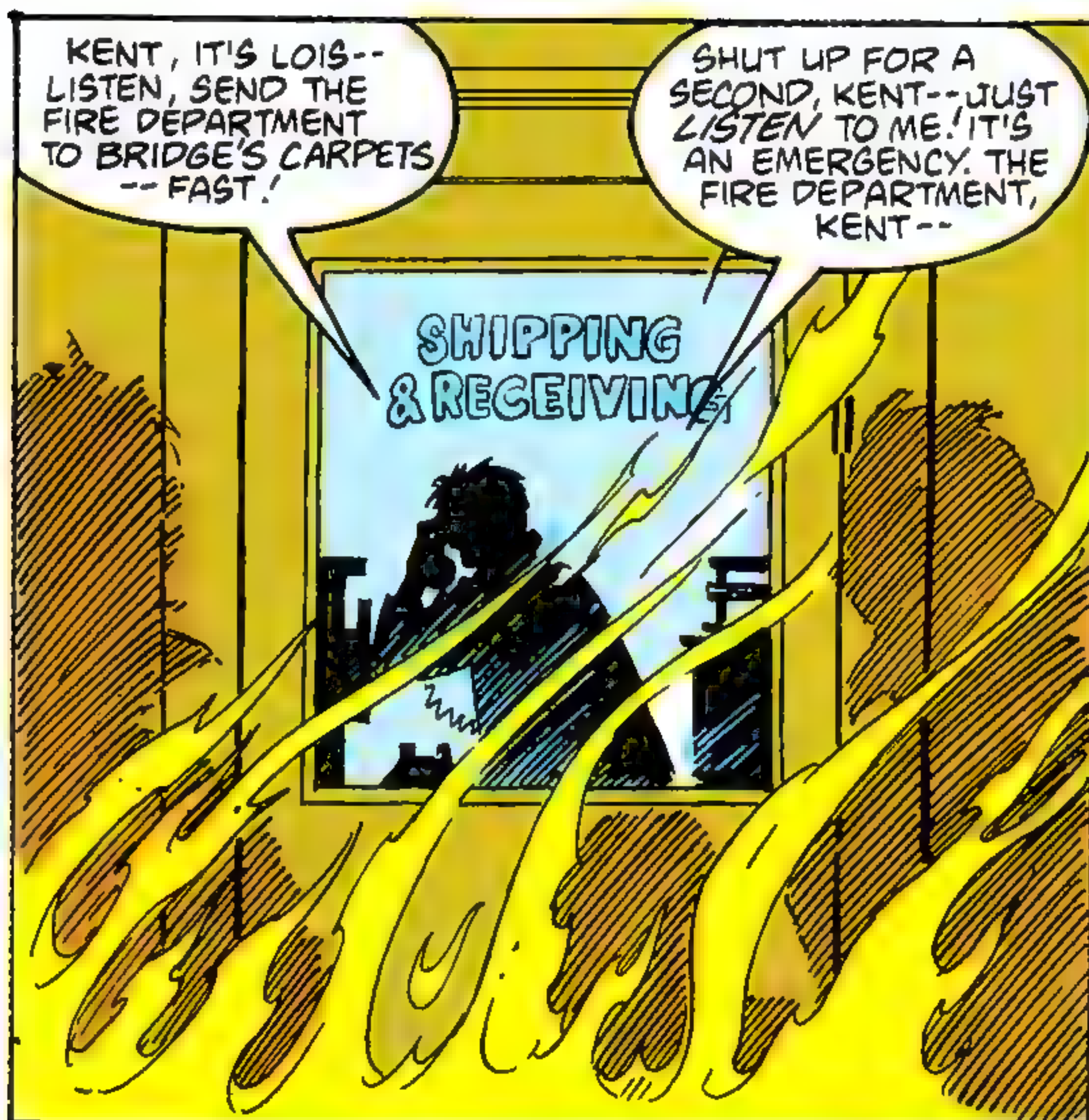
IT'S DELGADO.

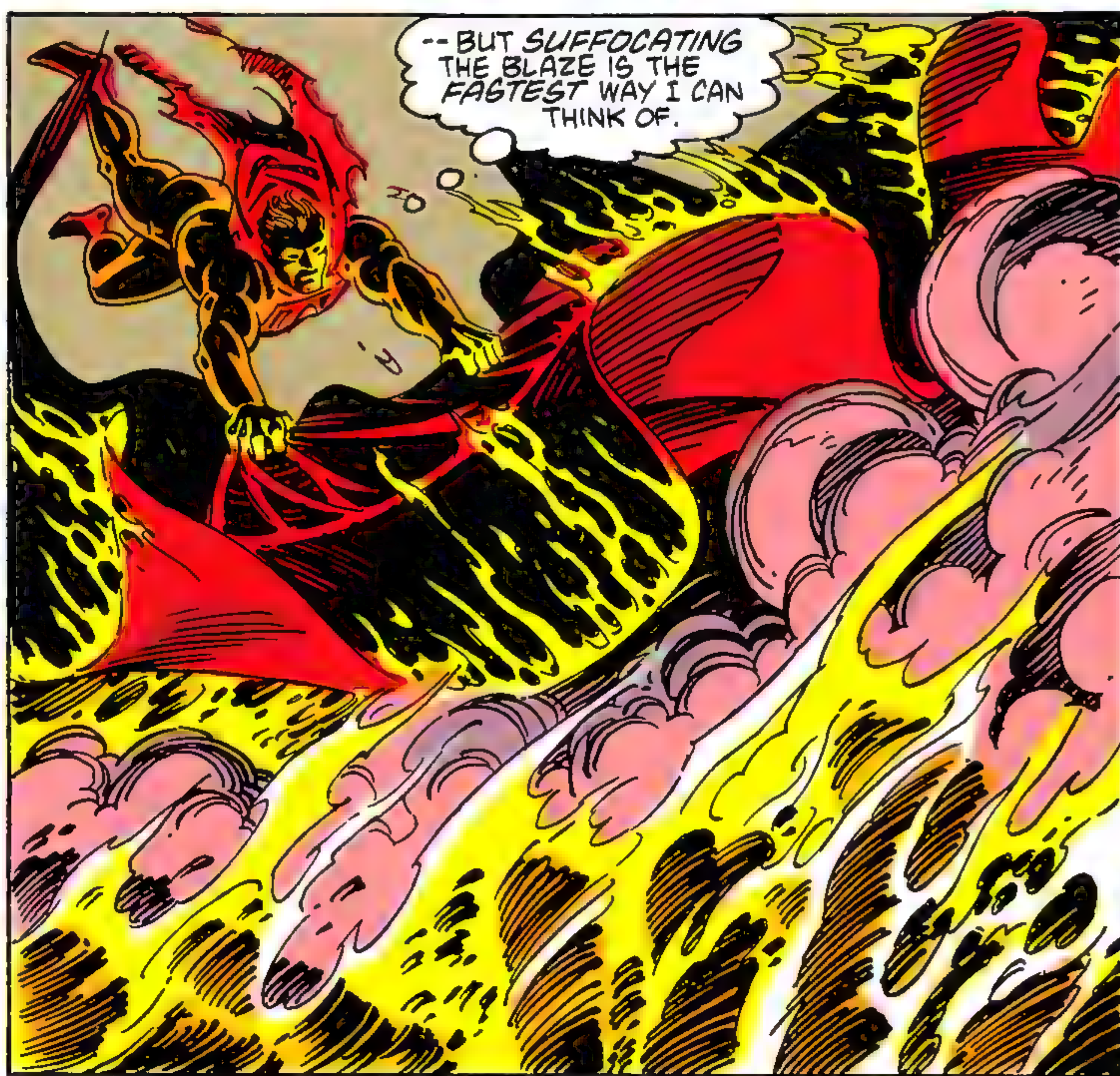
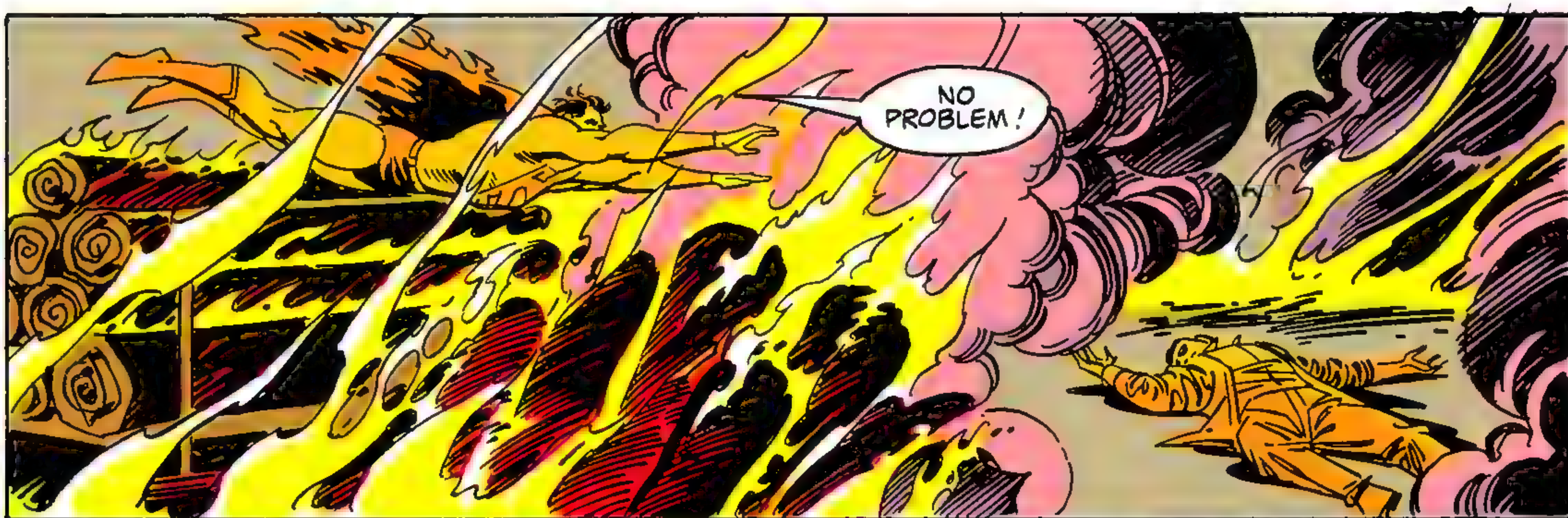
I'M HERE ALONE.

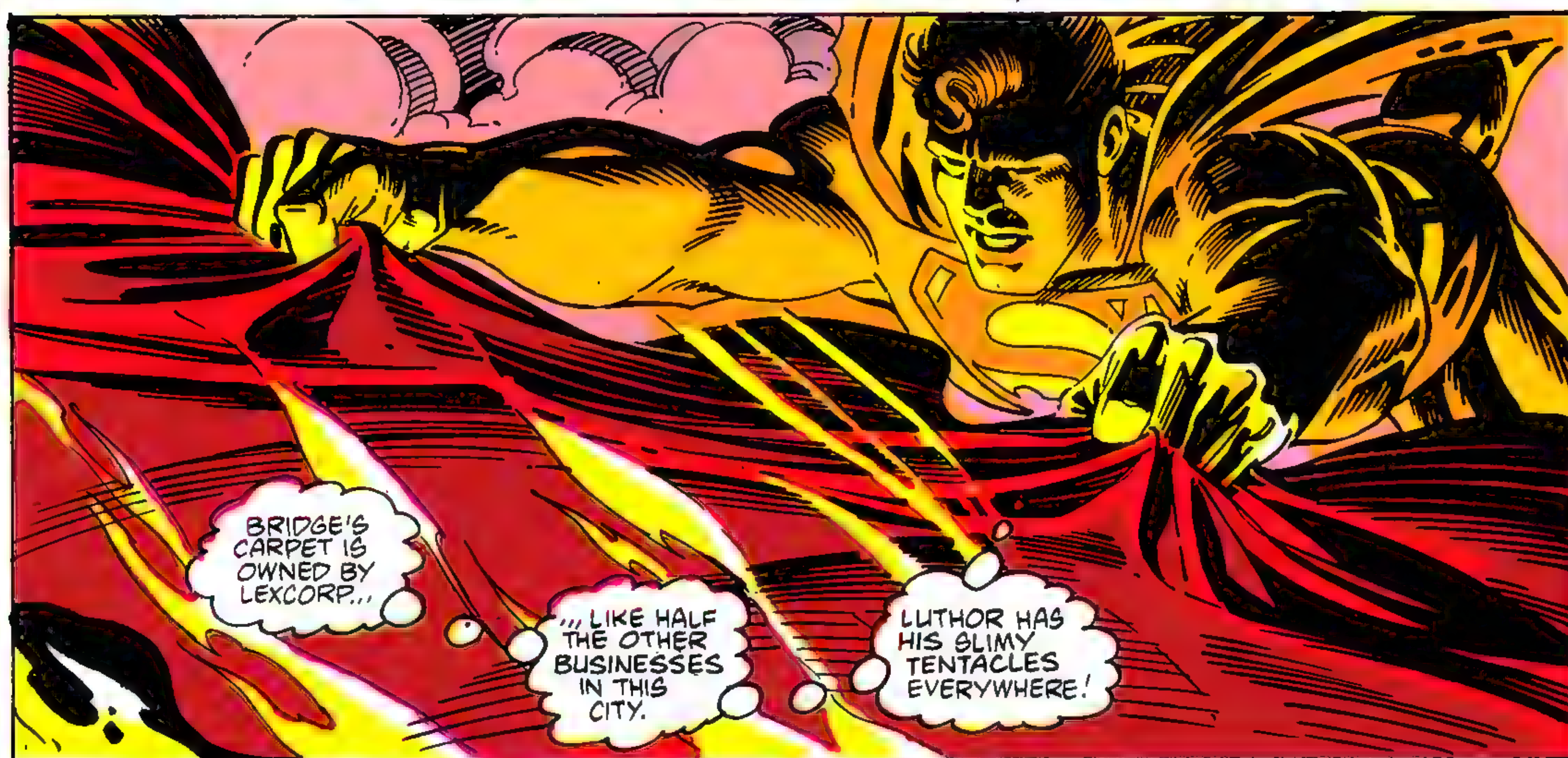
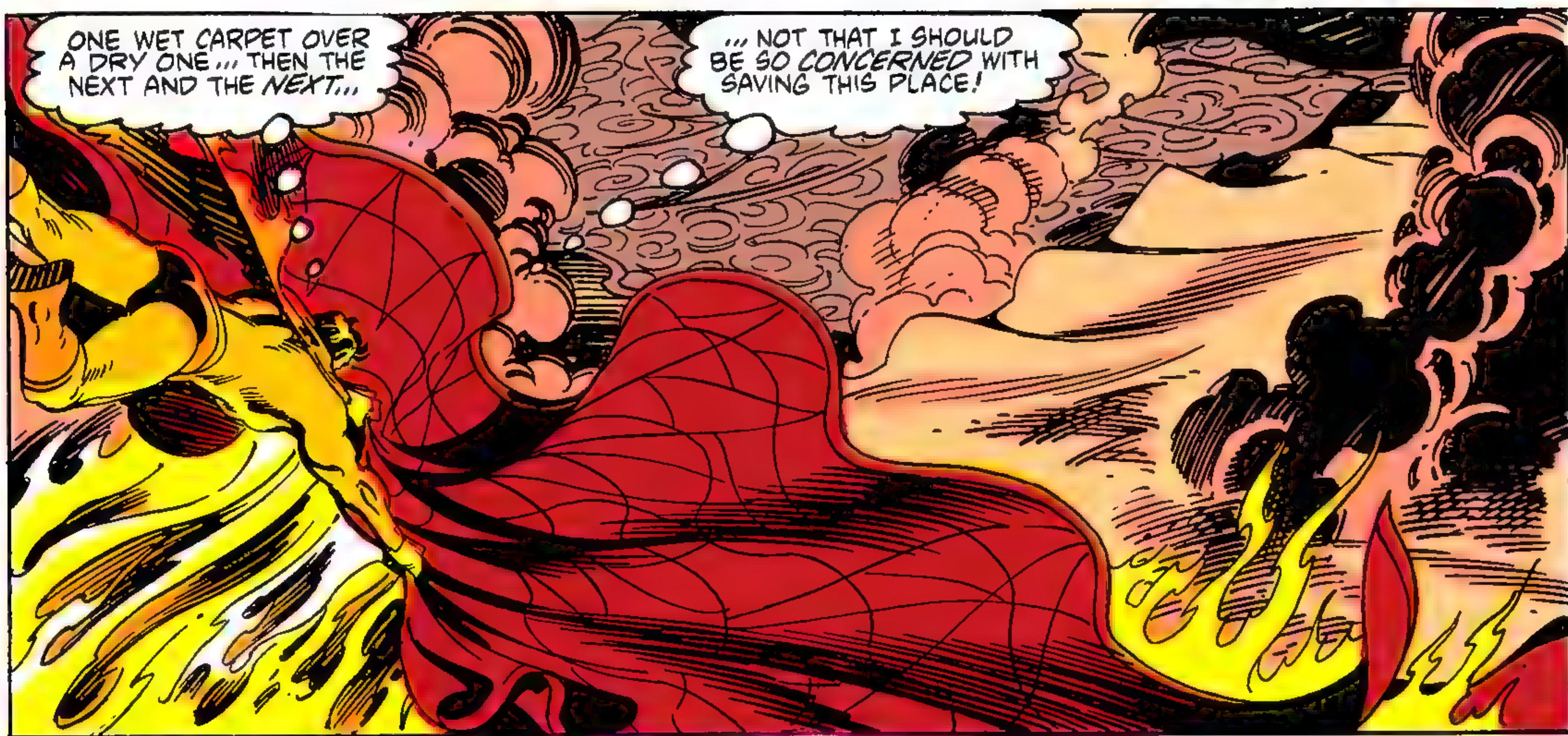


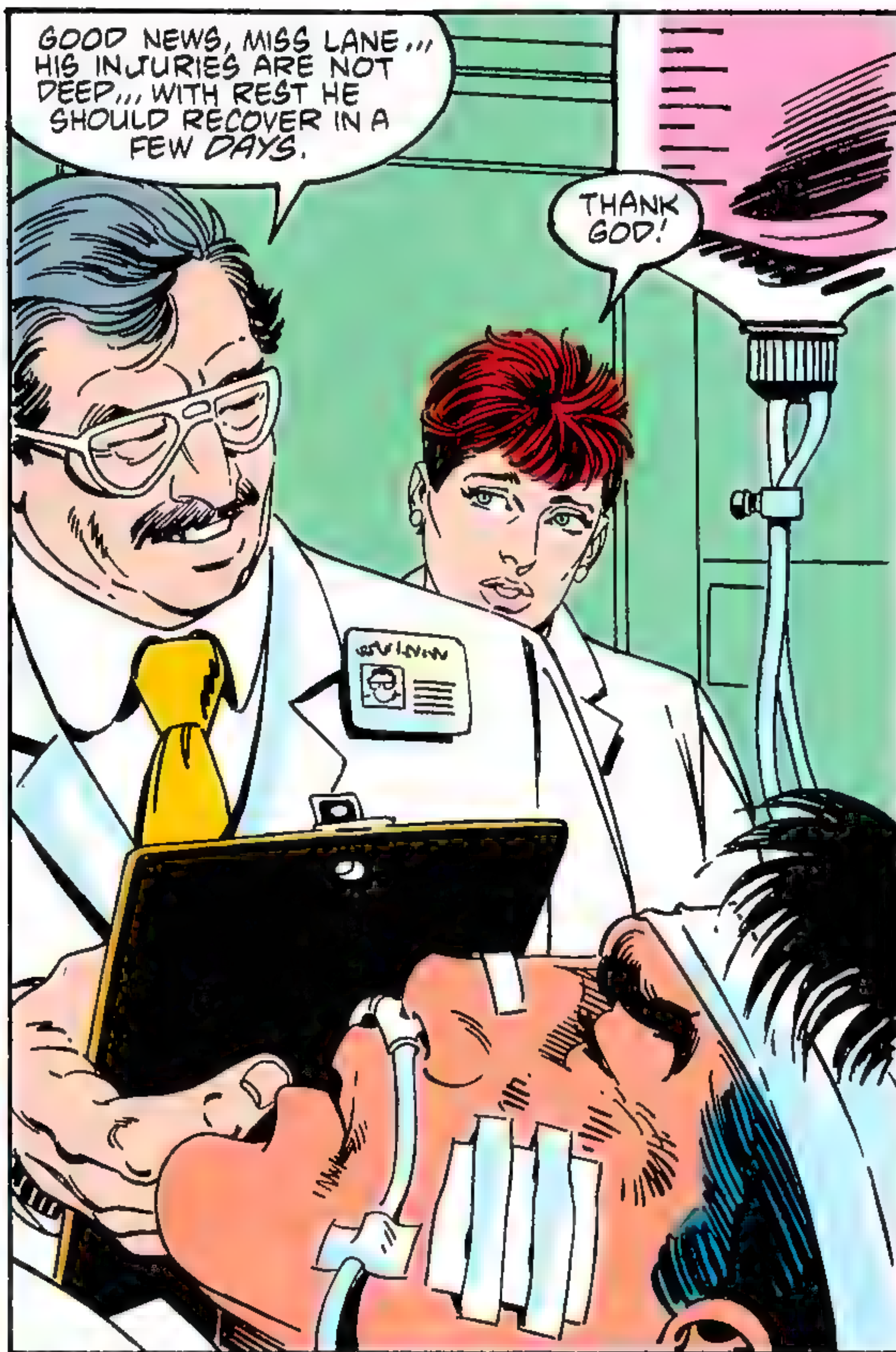
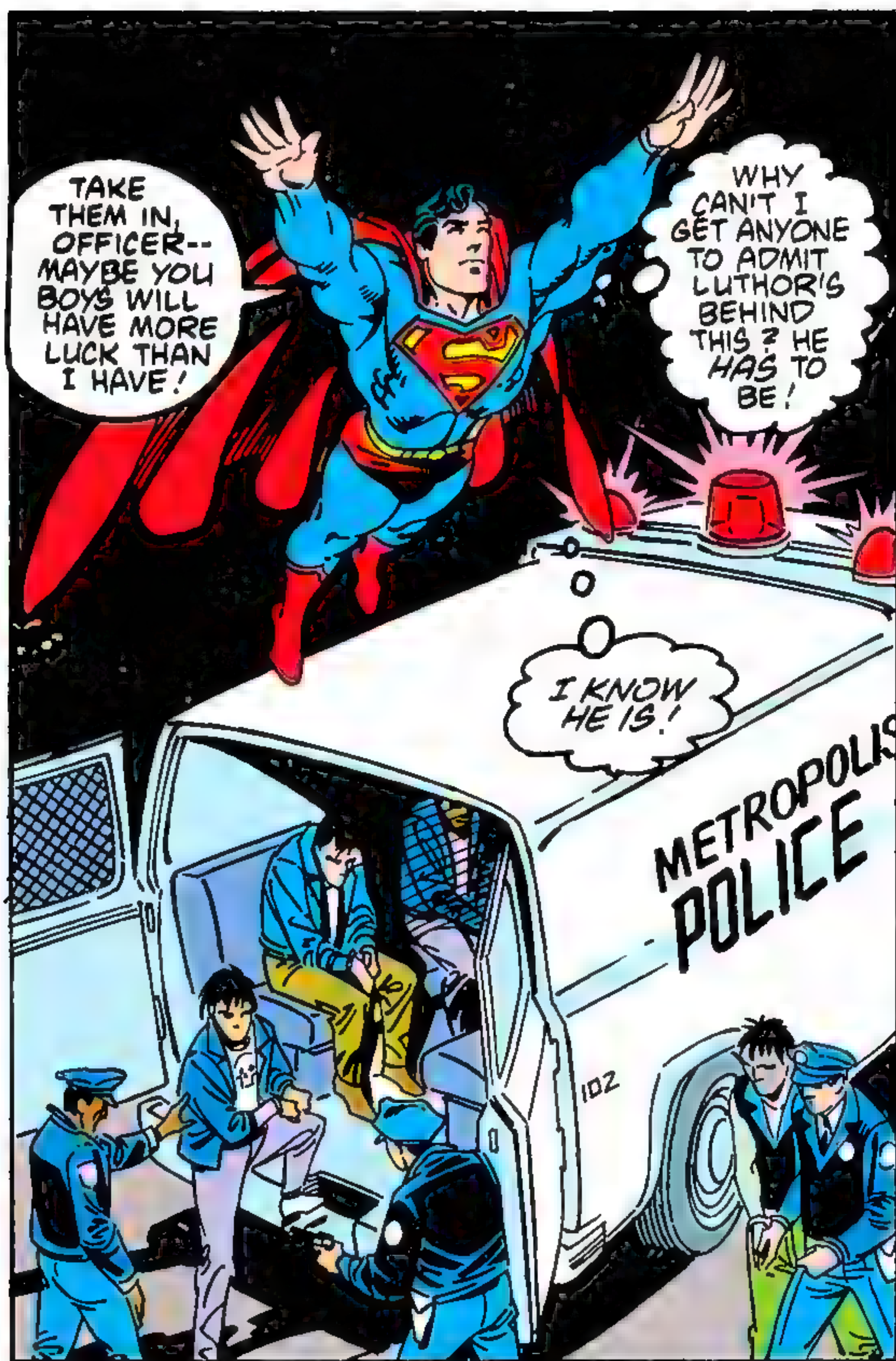








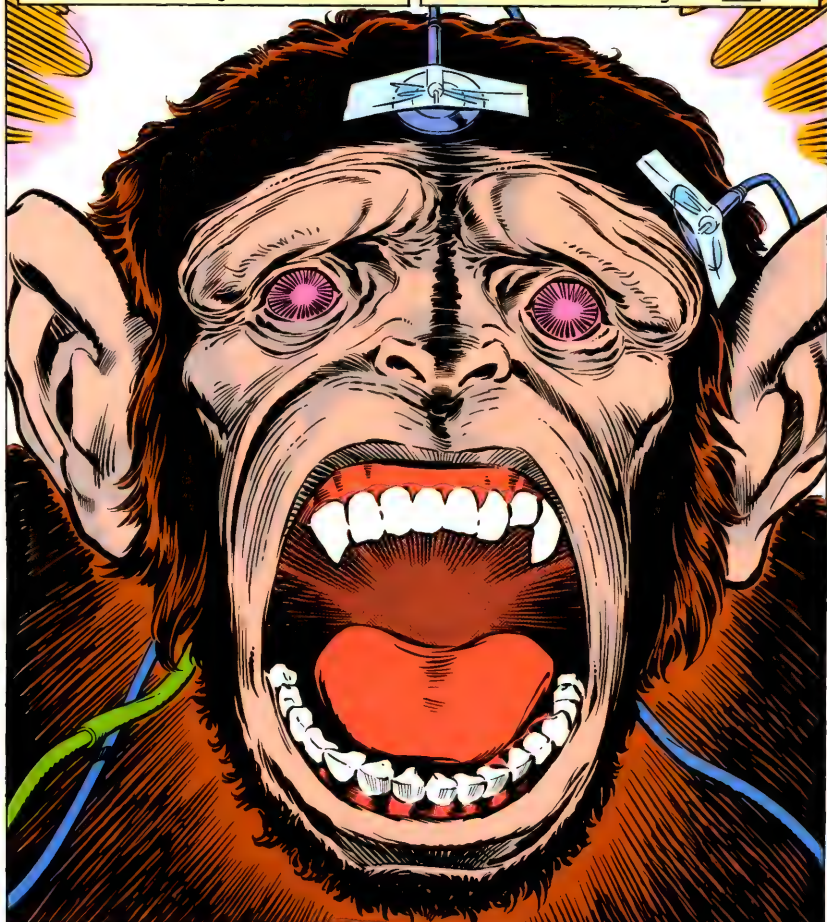




NEXT ISSUE: **SUPERMAN** IN 5 ACTS

Is there a fear greater than the fear born in ignorance? The fear that does not comprehend itself? The pain that lies forever beyond the reach of understanding?

I have looked into eyes filled with such fear, mindless fear, consuming fear. And for the first time I truly understand what it is to be the helpless victim of a world gone mad.



They called him "Titano" -- something of a joke, I suppose, to his captors, his tormentors.

This is his story.

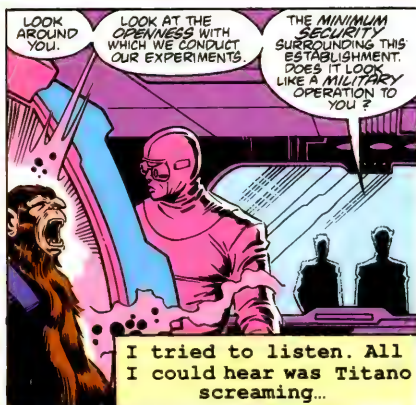
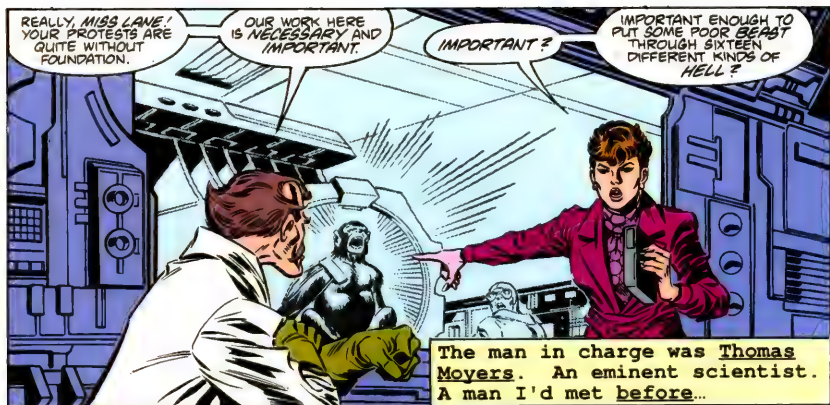
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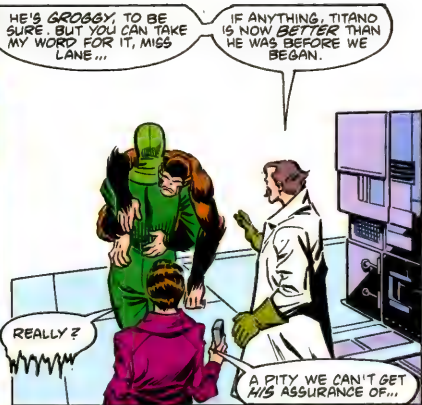
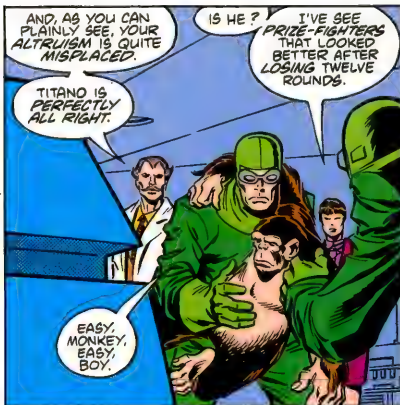
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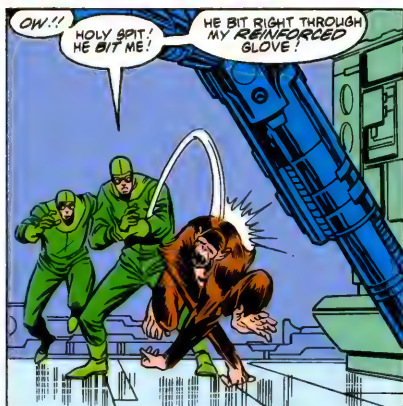
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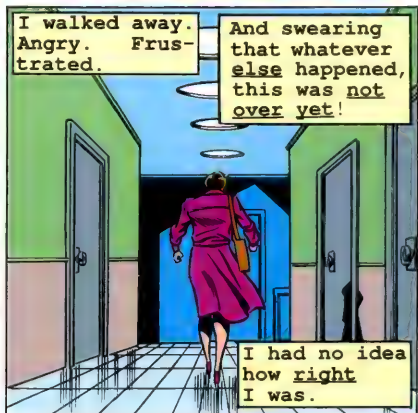
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SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

TEARS FOR TITANO!

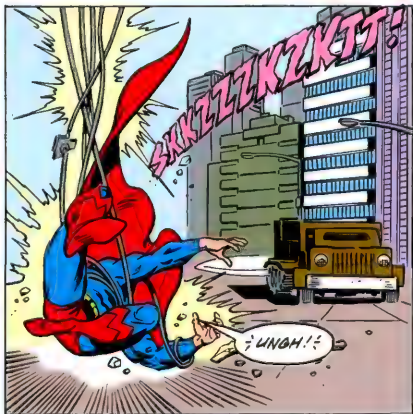
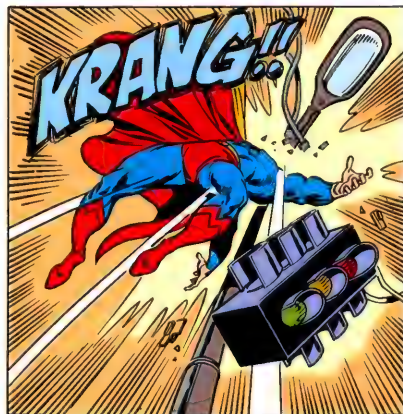
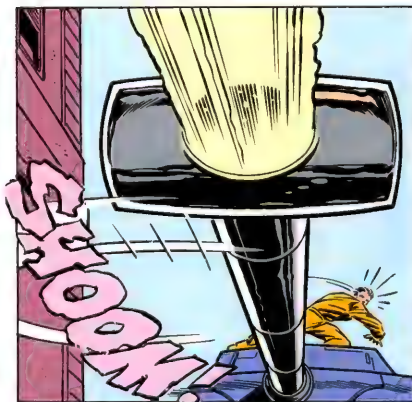


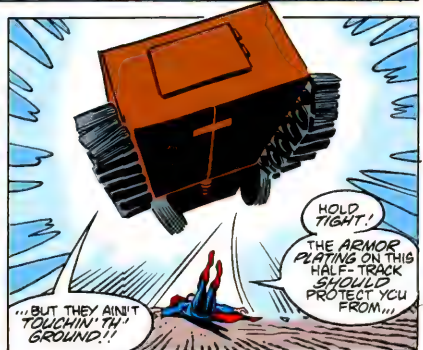
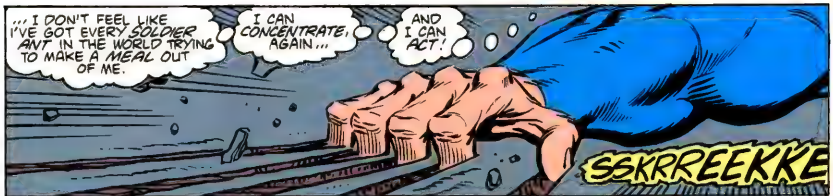
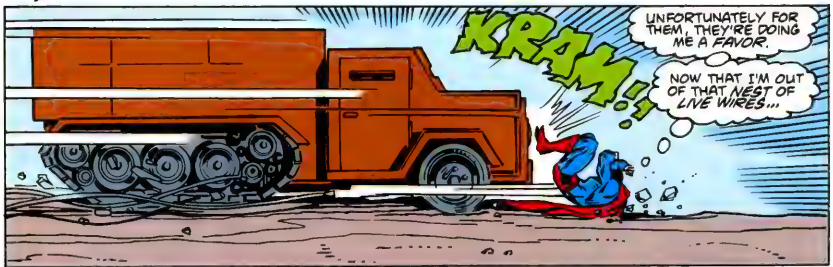
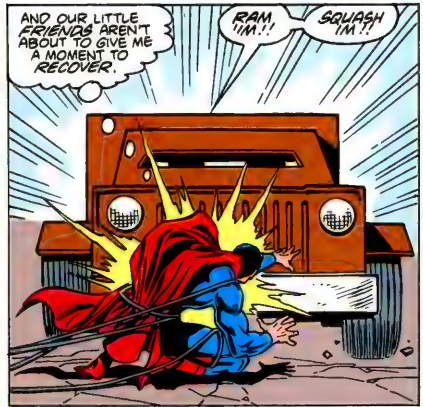
THIS
IS THE
LIFE!

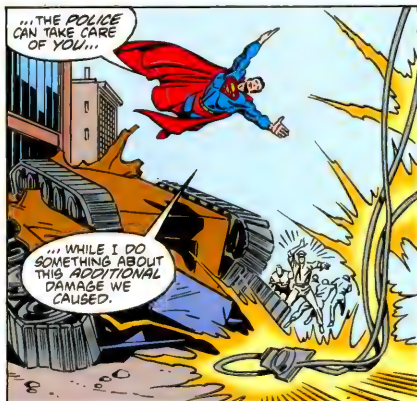
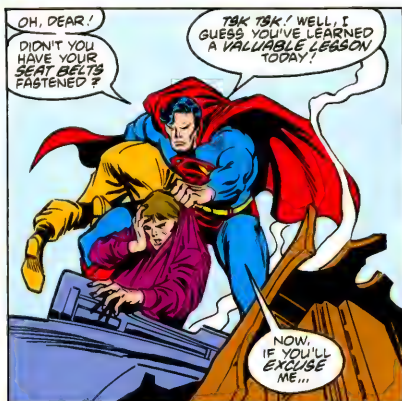
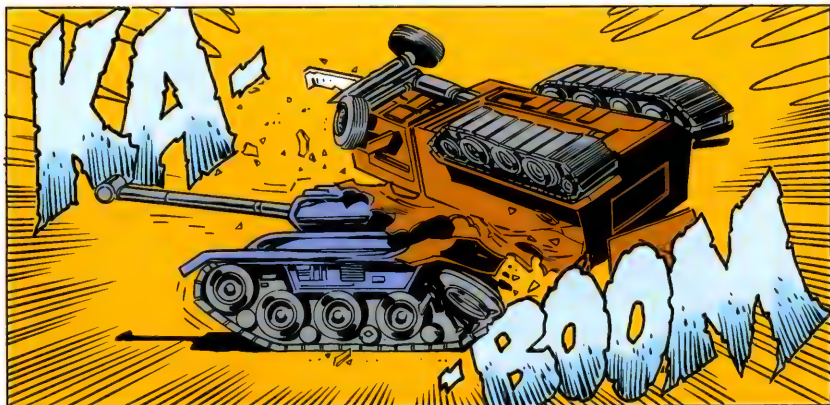
CLEAN SKIES.
SUMMER
WEATHER.

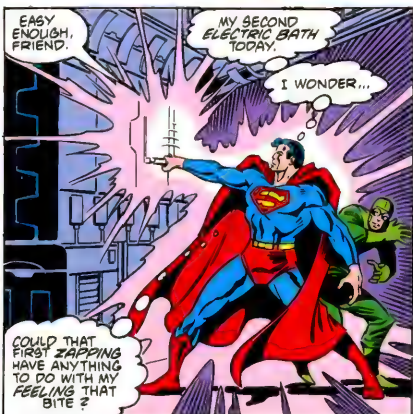
AND THE WORST
CRIME WITHIN RANGE
OF MY TELESCOPIC
VISION IS A LITTLE
OLD LADY JAYWALKING
OVER ON BLEEKER.

JOHN BYRNE - SCRIPTER / CO-PLOTTER
RON FRENZ - PENCILLER / CO-PLOTTER
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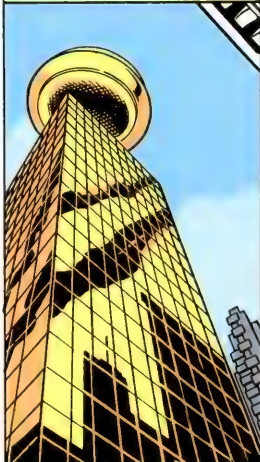








As Superman battled against the raging currents...



I found myself in an unexpected battle of my own...

I'M SORRY, LOIS.

I KNOW *JUST* HOW YOU FEEL, BELIEVE ME.

BUT THE MOST YOU'VE GOT IS A HUMAN INTEREST STORY.

AND THAT'S NOT PAGE ONE MATERIAL.



PERRY, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

YOU WEREN'T THERE. YOU DIDN'T LOOK INTO TITANO'S EYES.

YOU DIDN'T SEE THE FEAR.

YOU CAN'T TELL ME ANY SCIENTIFIC ADVANCE IS WORTH THAT KIND OF SUFFERING!



YOU'RE PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED, LOIS.

I'M ON YOUR SIDE, REALLY.

IN MY LIFE I'VE HAD SIX DOGS, EIGHT CATS... EVEN A MONKEY, ONCE.

NOBODY LOVES ANIMALS MORE THAN I DO, BUT LOVING ANIMALS ISN'T THE POINT.

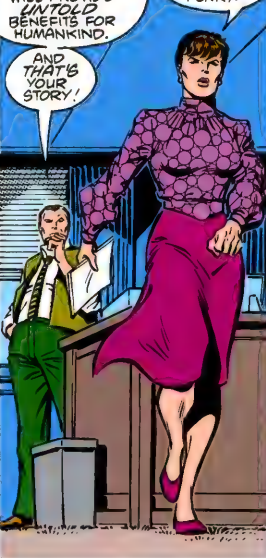


HUMAN SURVIVAL IS!

AND DOCTOR MOYERS CLAIMS HIS EXPERIMENTS WILL PROVIDE UNTO BENEFITS FOR HUMANKIND.

AND THAT'S YOUR STORY!

ALL RIGHT. HAVE IT YOUR WAY, PERRY.



BUT I'M NOT OUT OF ACES YET!



NOW WHAT?



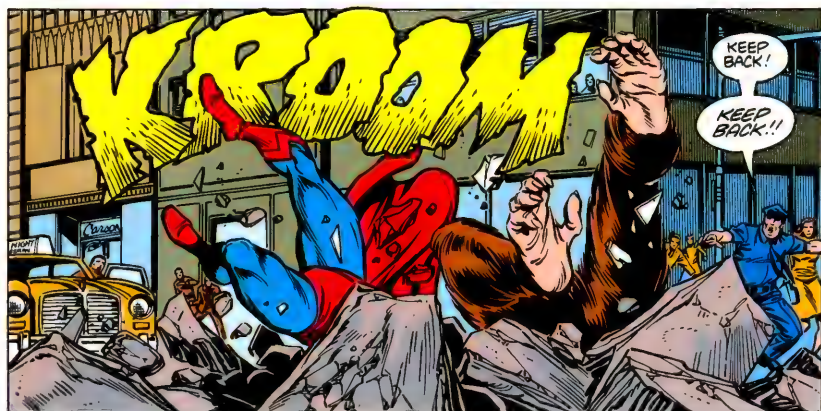
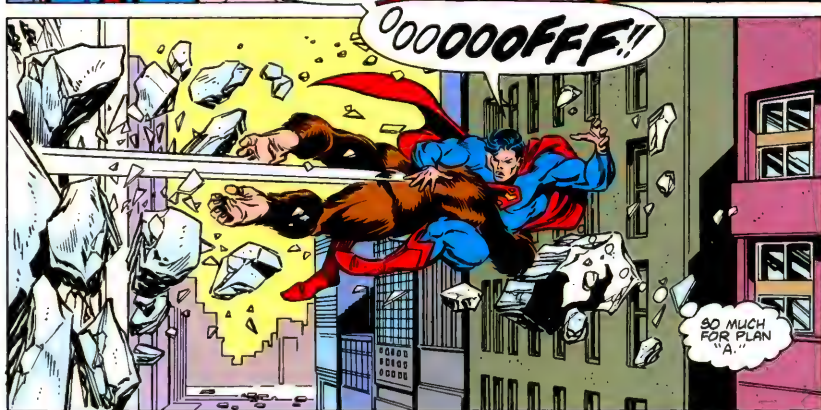


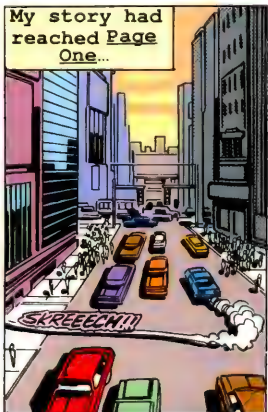
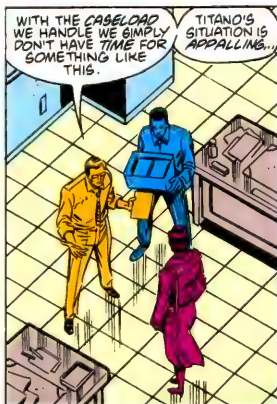
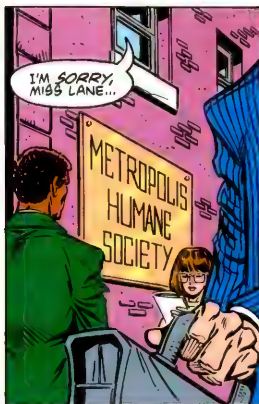
"HE'S SO MUCH BIGGER..."

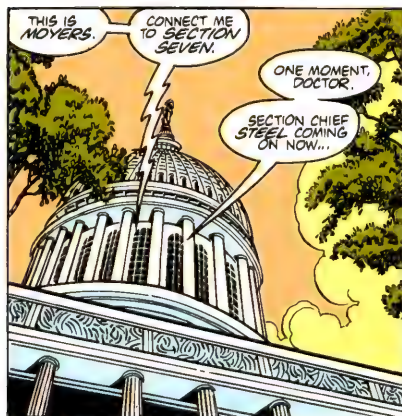
"SO... FEROCIOUS."

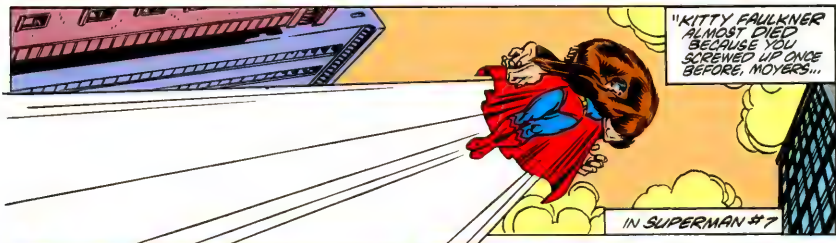


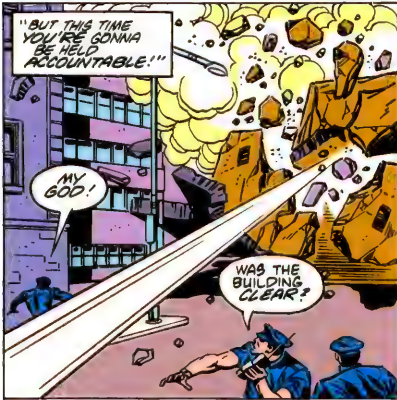
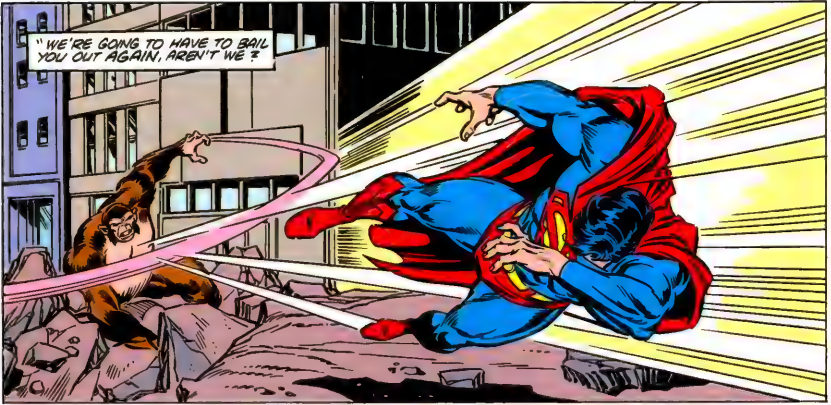


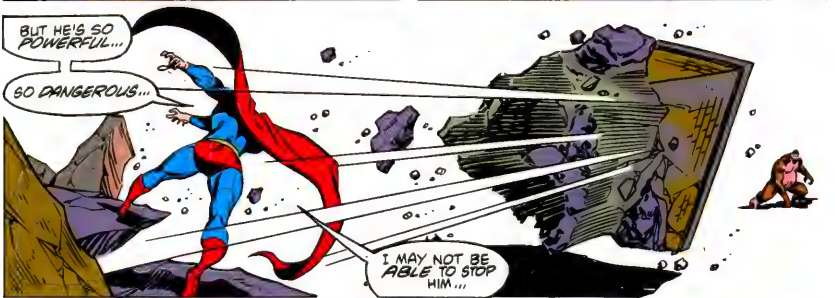
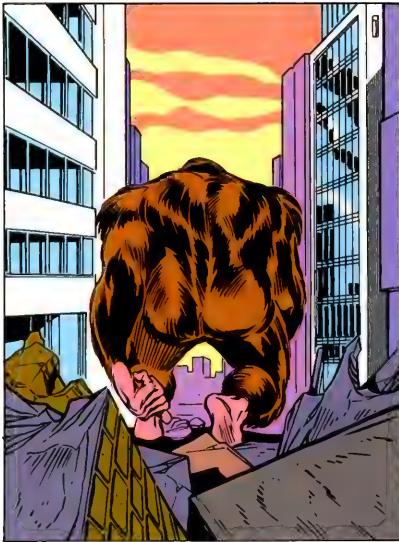


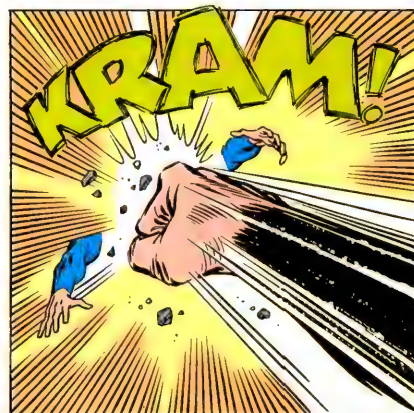
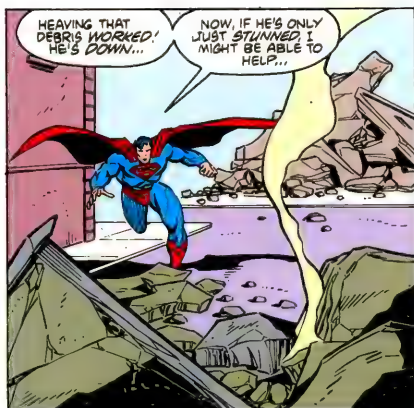


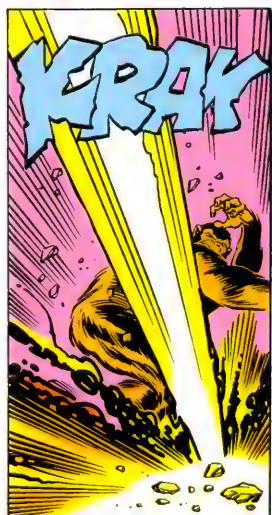
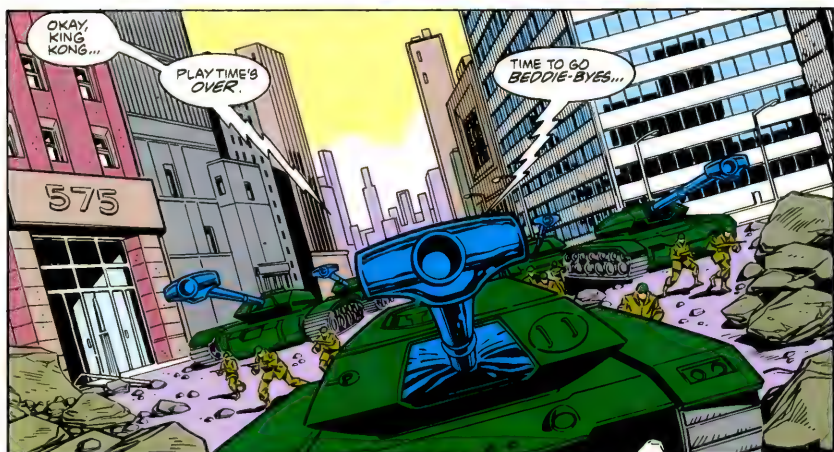


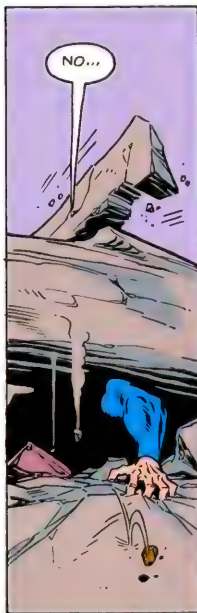
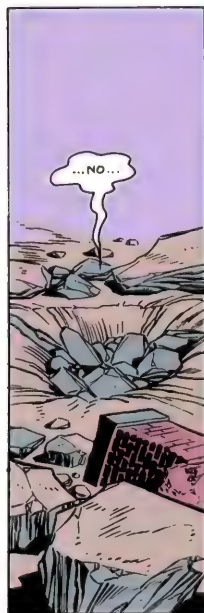


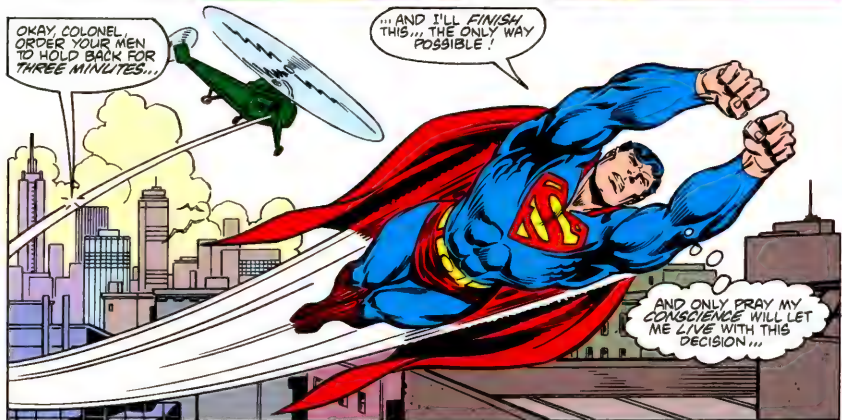
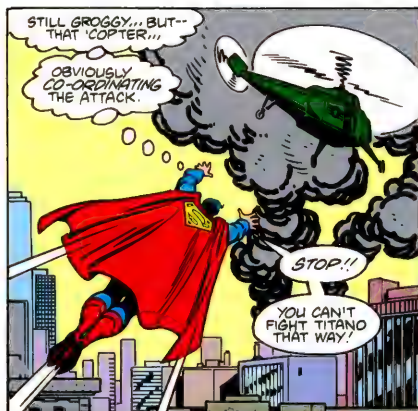


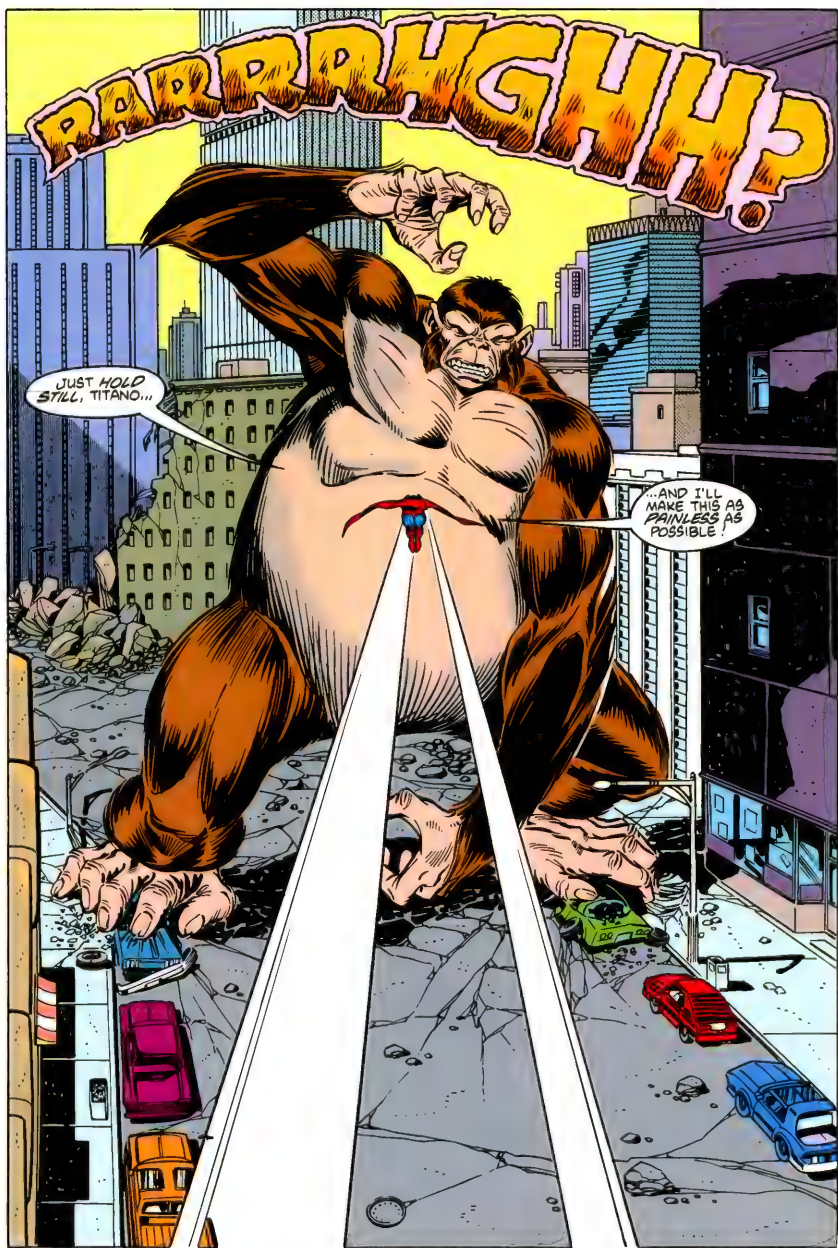










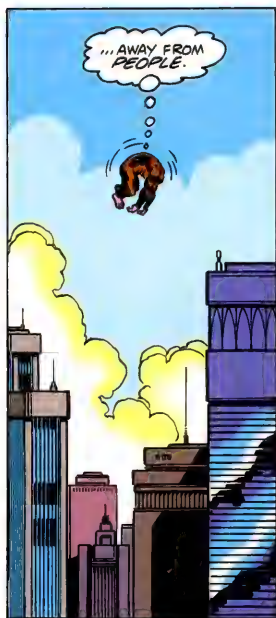


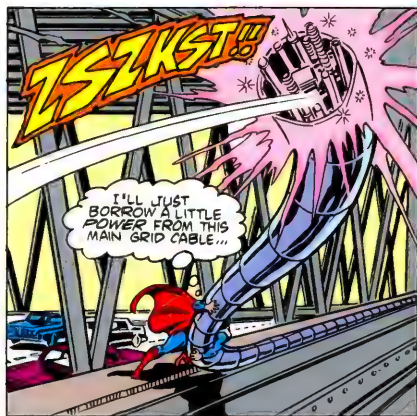
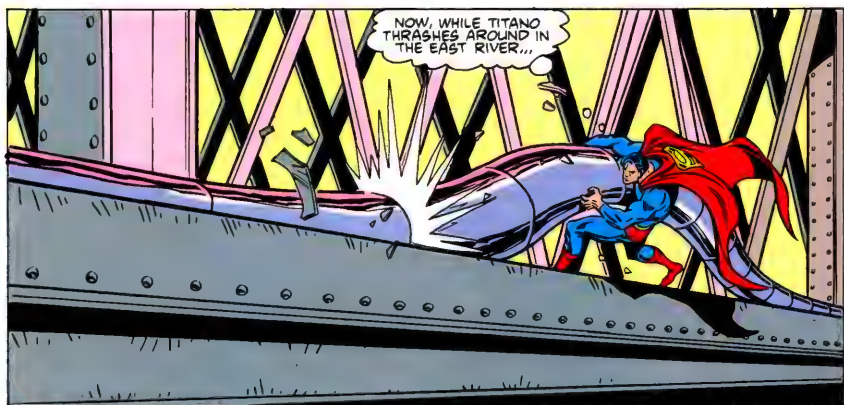
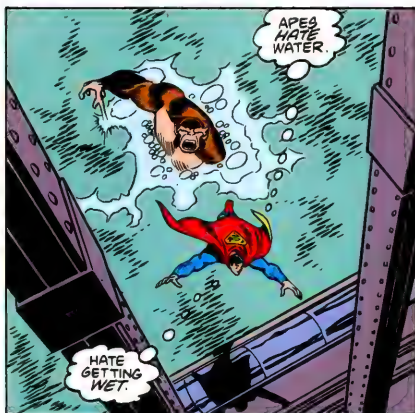
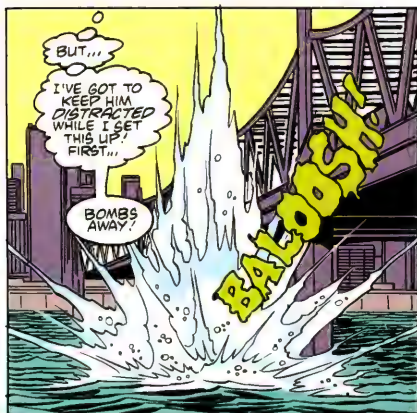
JUST HOLD
STILL, TITANO...

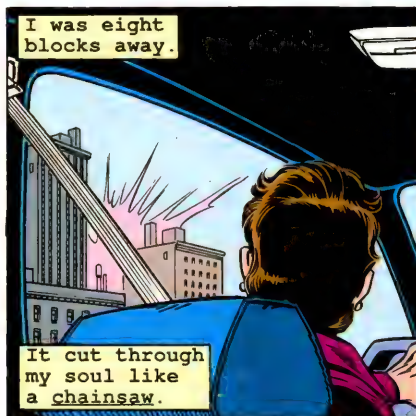
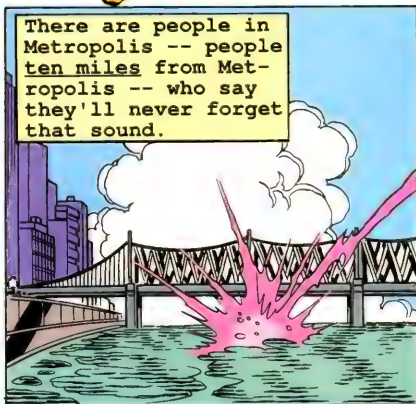
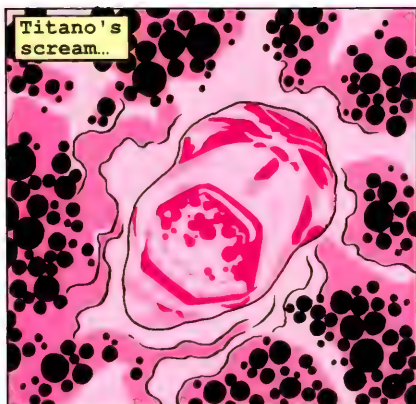
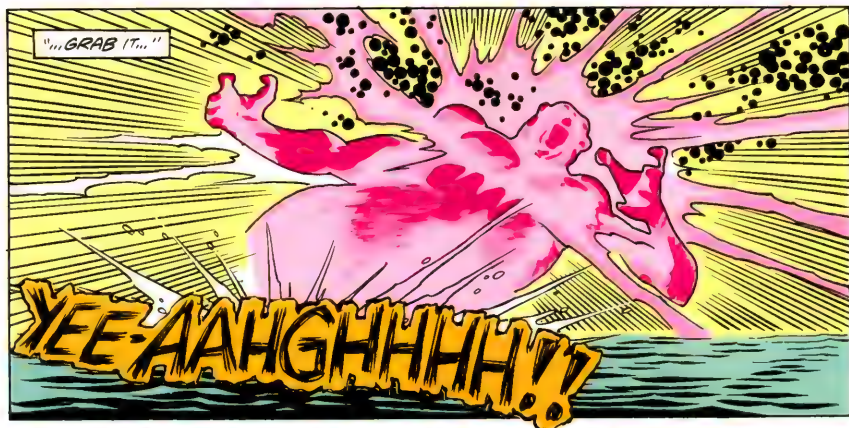
...AND I'LL
MAKE THIS AS
PAINLESS AS
POSSIBLE!

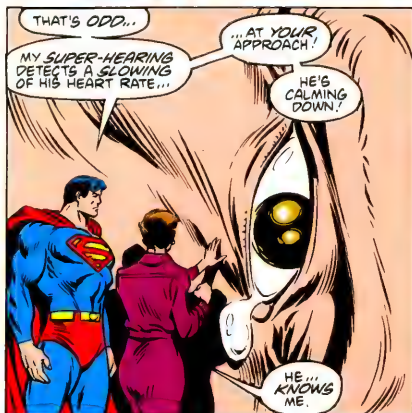
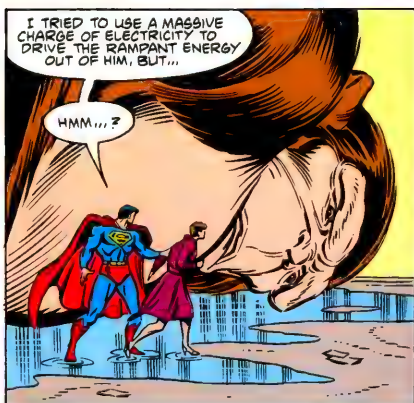
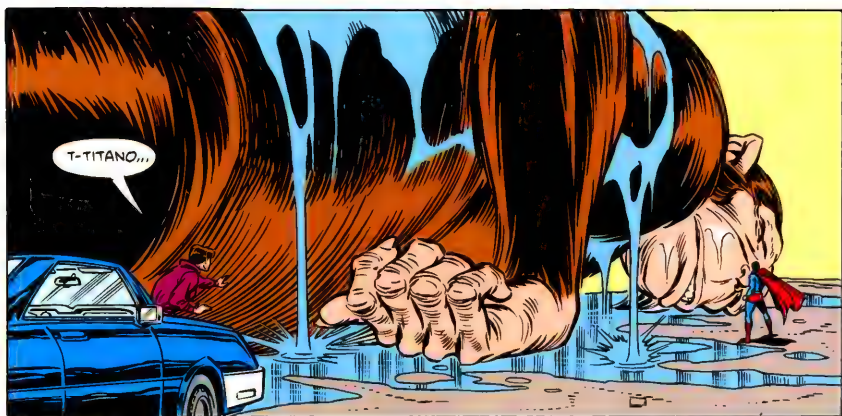
RAARRRHHH!

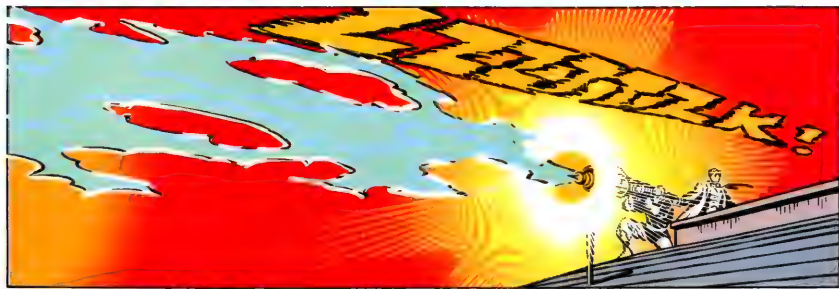
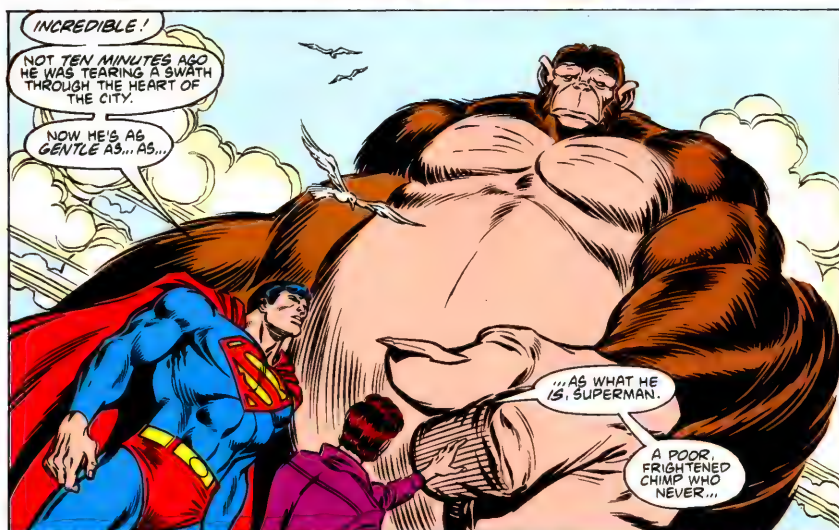


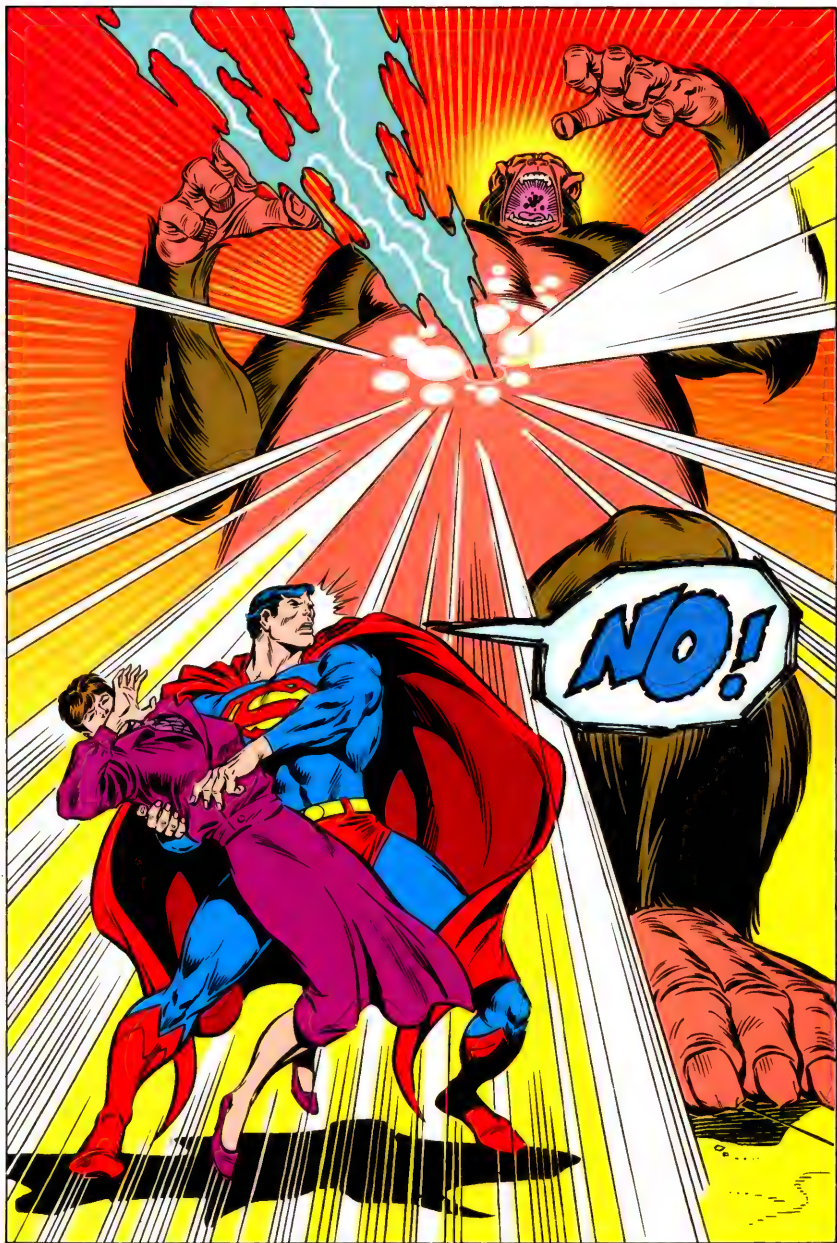


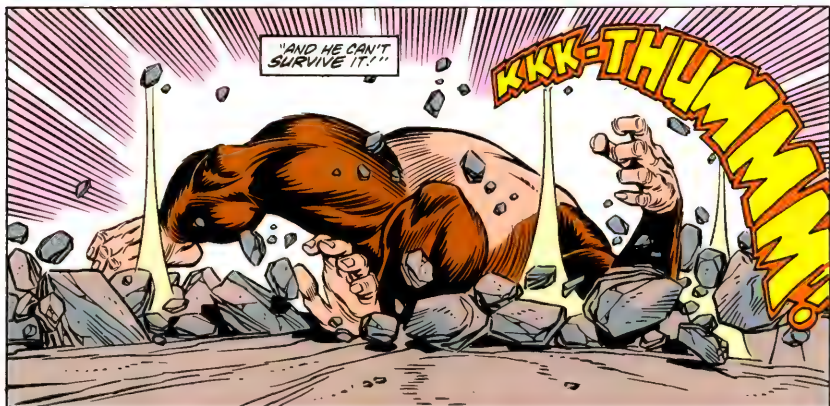
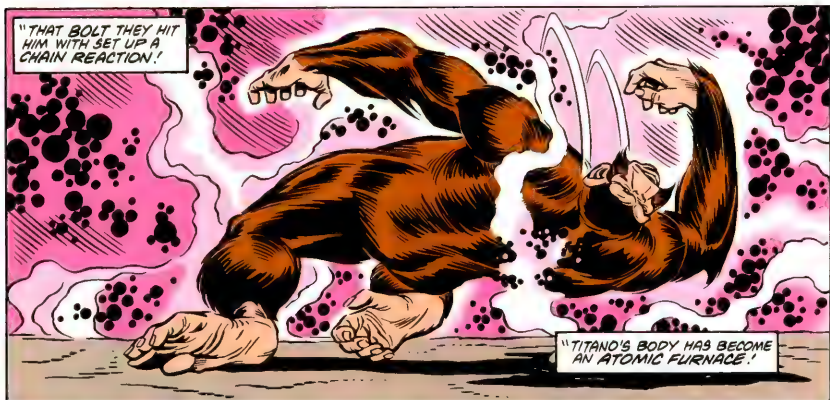
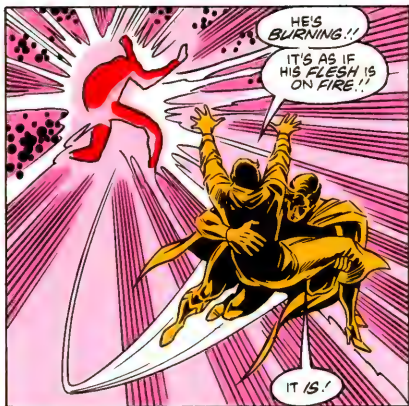


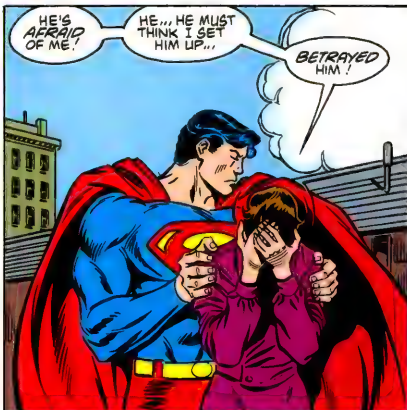


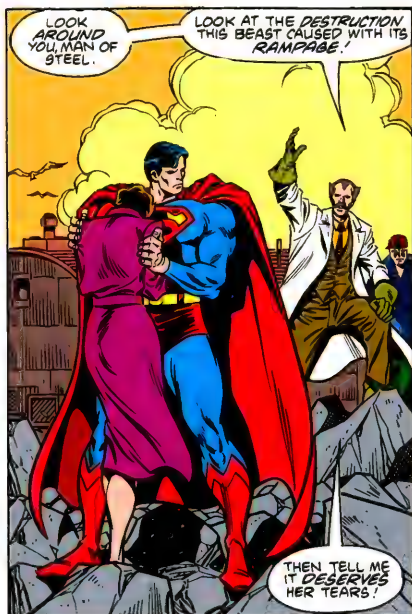


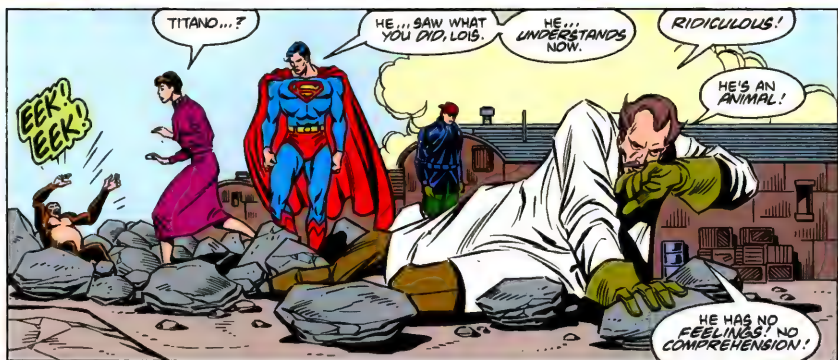












And they were right. There was a monster in Metropolis that day.

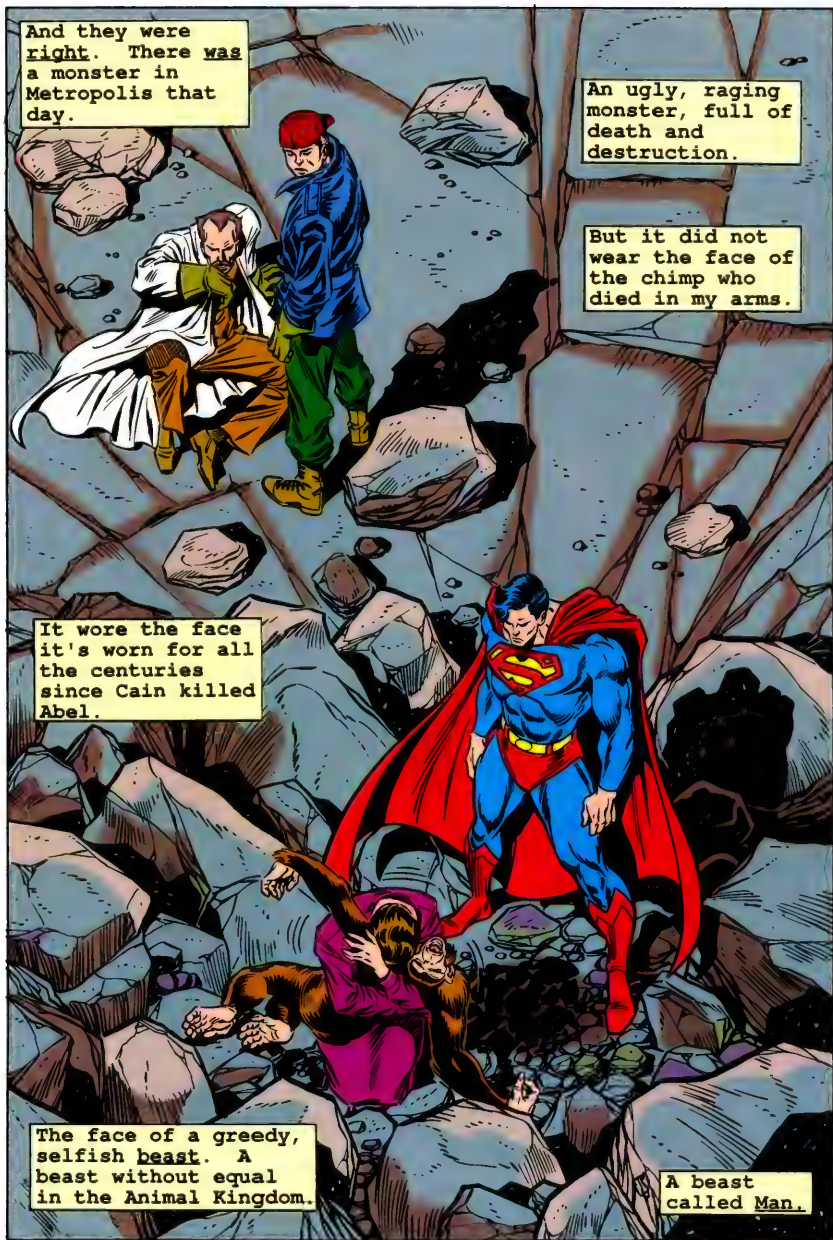
An ugly, raging monster, full of death and destruction.

But it did not wear the face of the chimp who died in my arms.

It wore the face it's worn for all the centuries since Cain killed Abel.

The face of a greedy, selfish beast. A beast without equal in the Animal Kingdom.

A beast called Man.



THE SUPER MENACE

OF METROPOLIS!

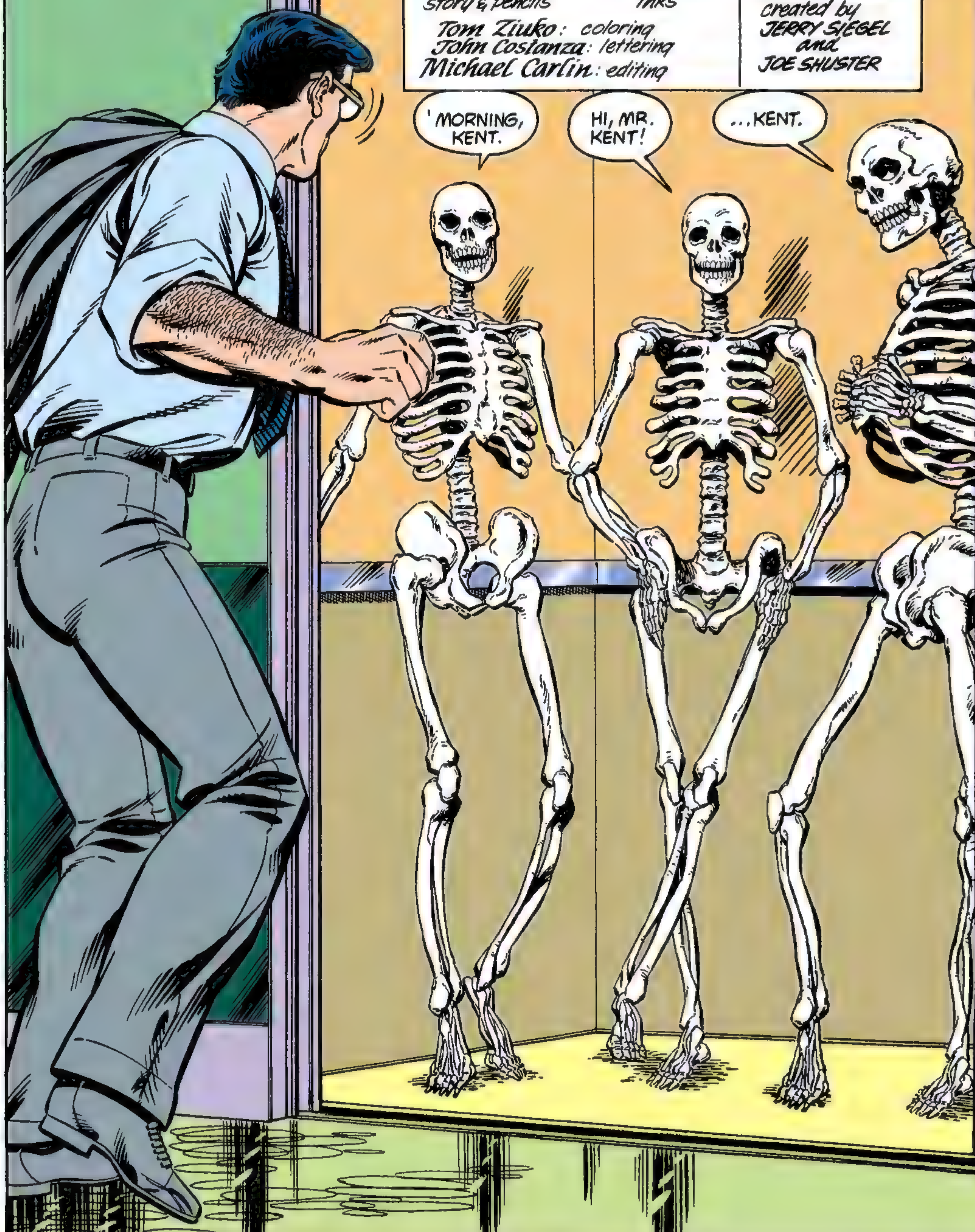
John Byrne . *Karl Kesel*
story & pencils inks
Tom Zuko: coloring
John Costanza: lettering
Michael Carlin: editing

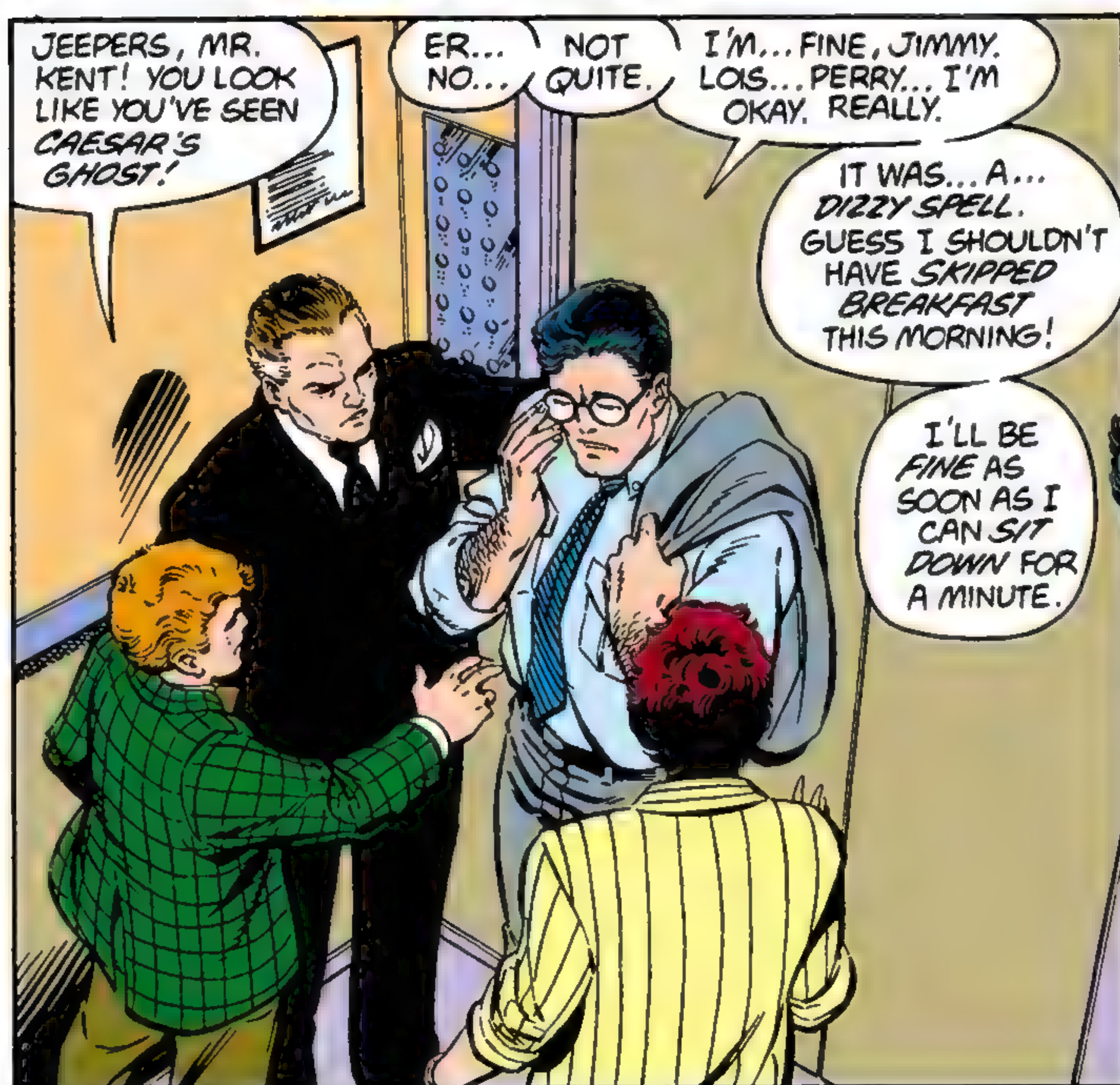
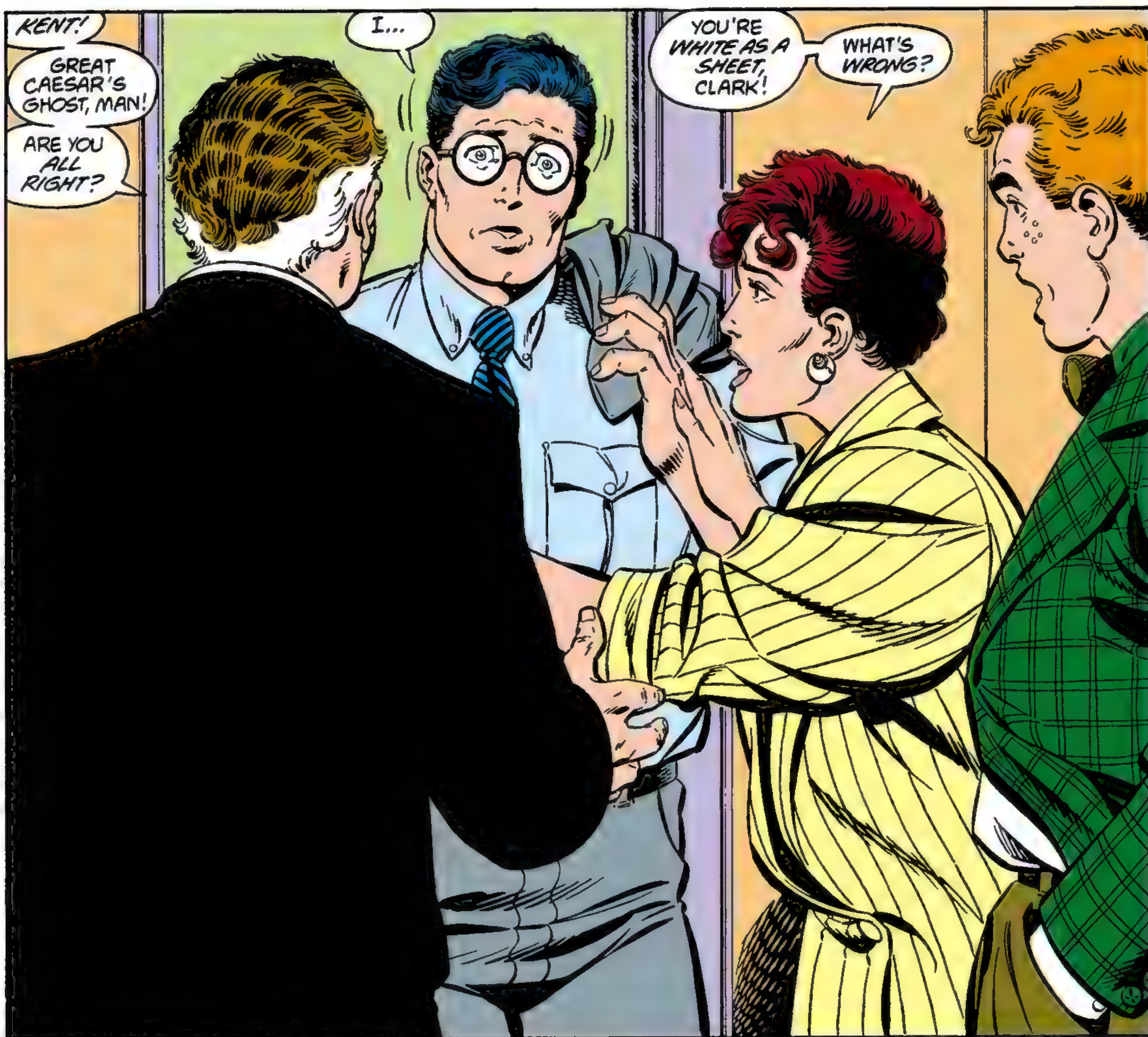
SUPERMAN
created by
JERRY SIEGEL
and
JOE SHUSTER

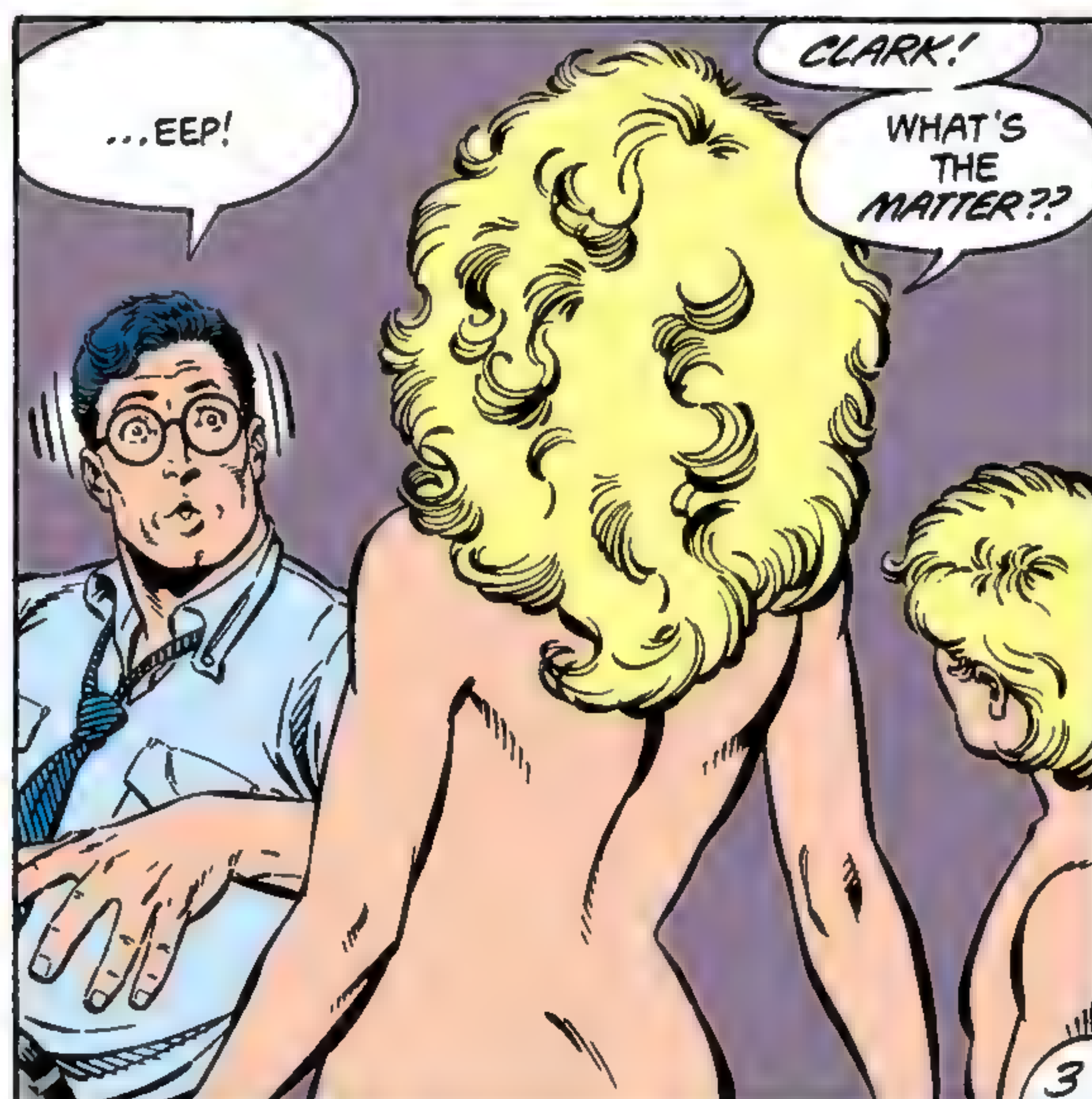
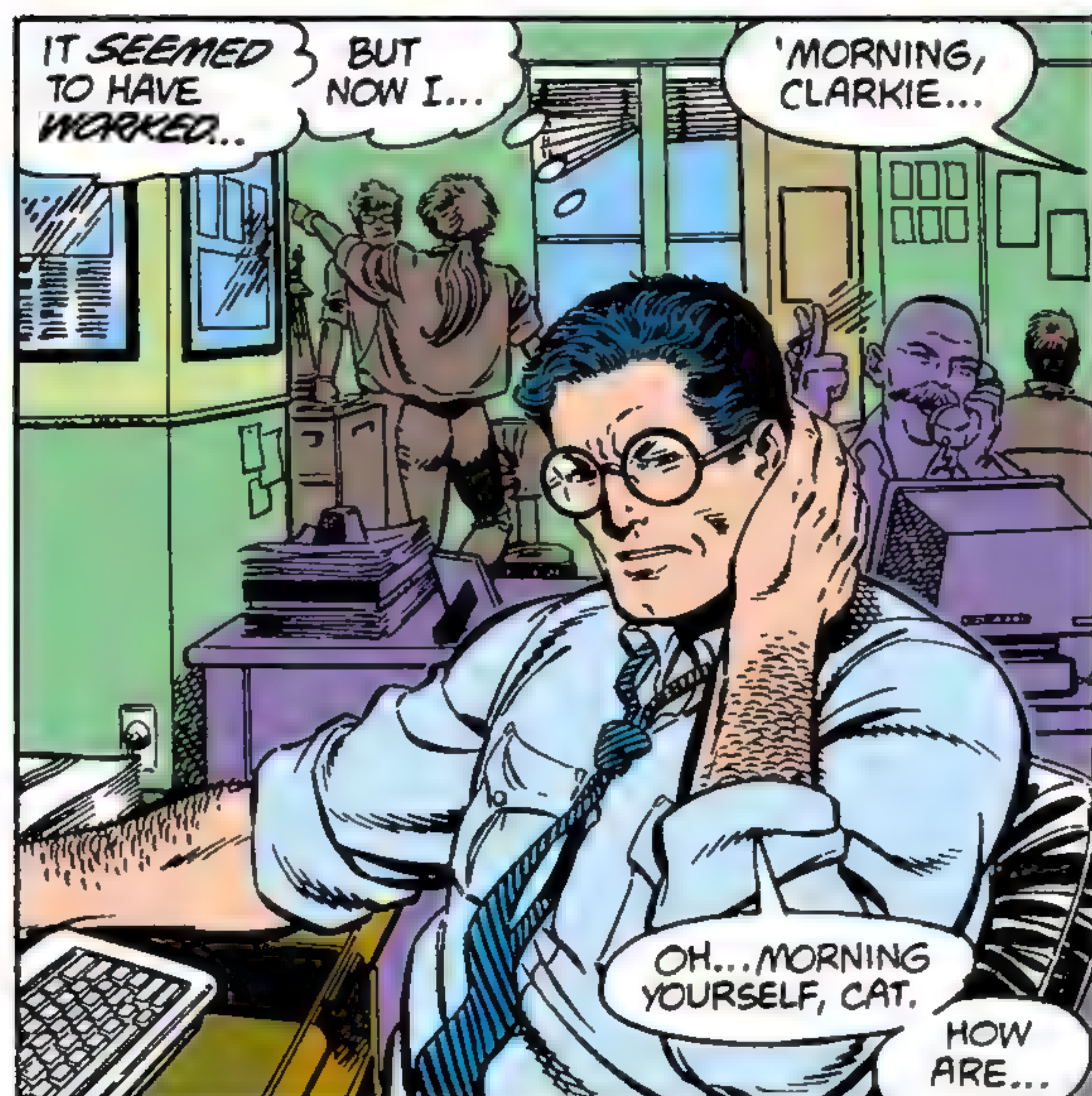
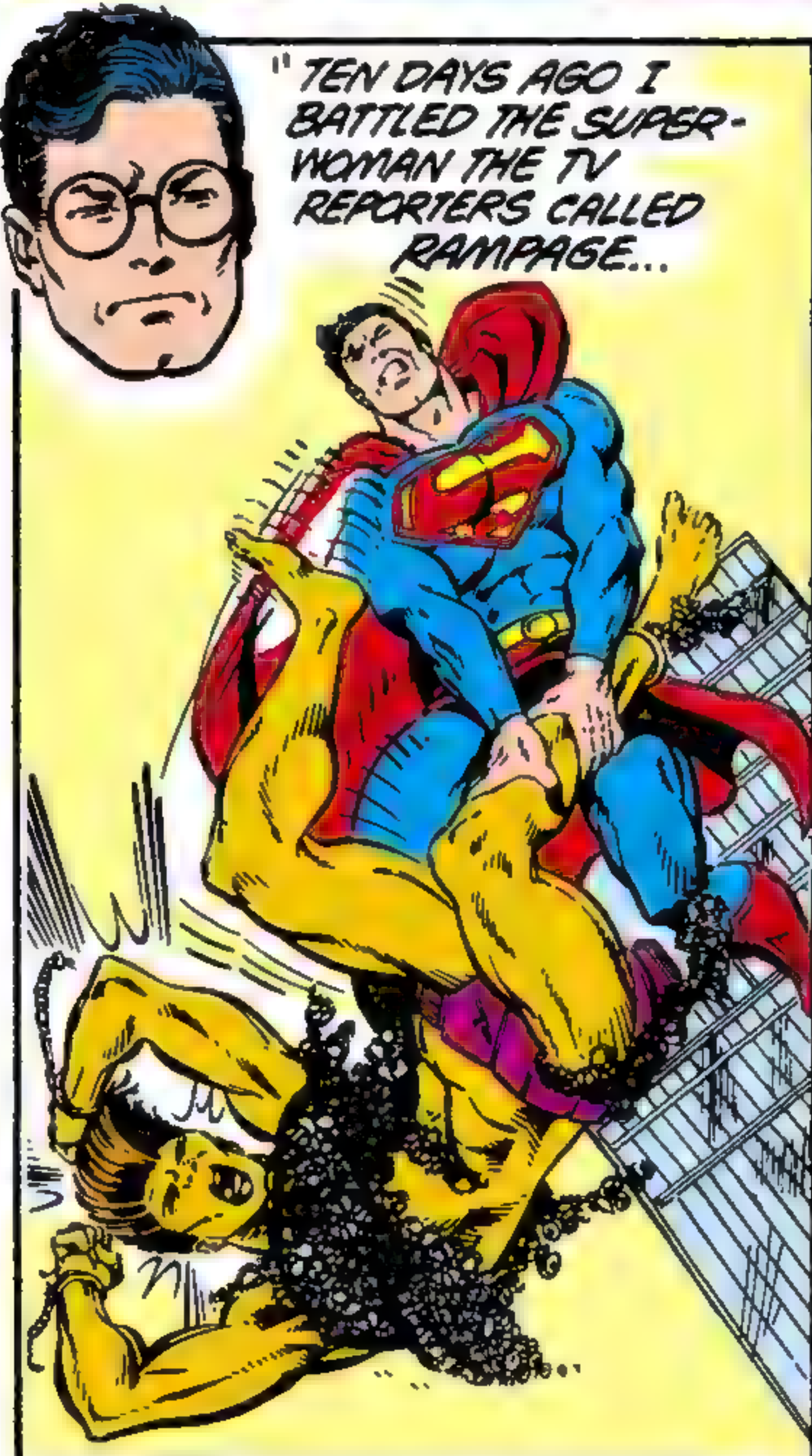
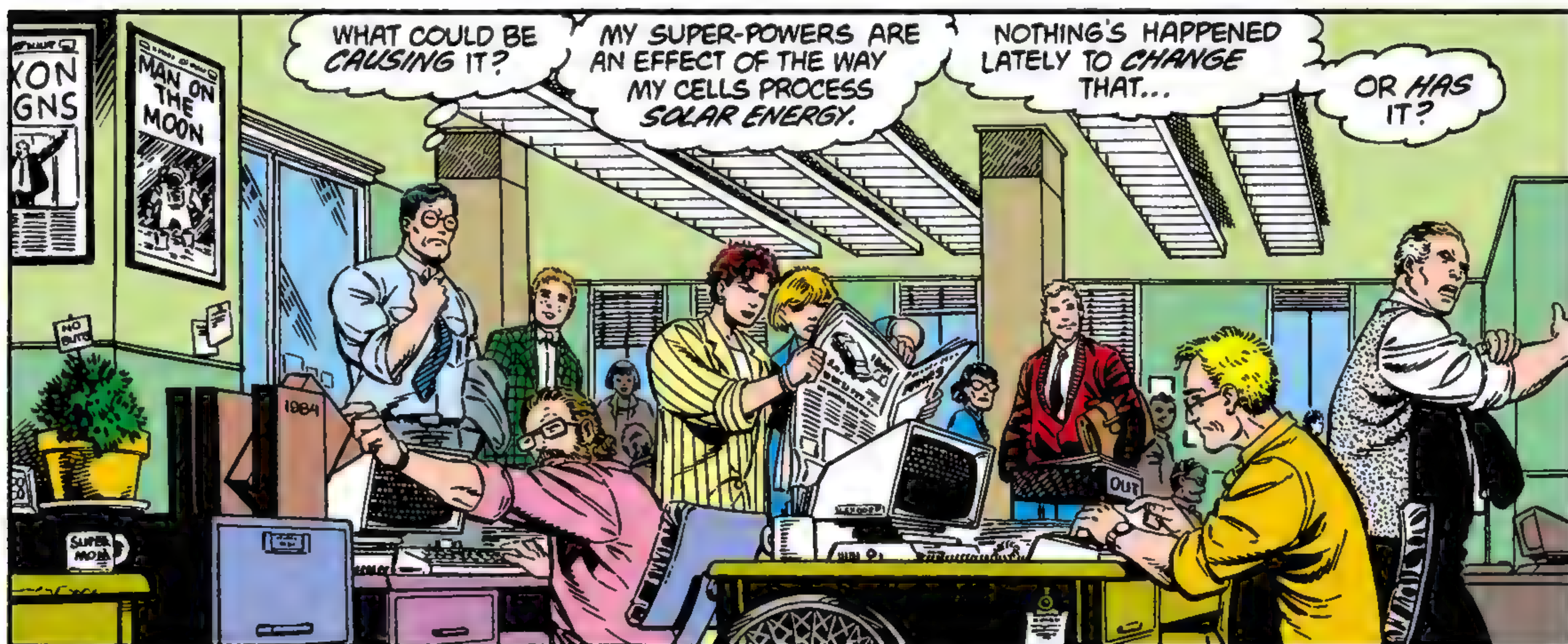
'MORNING,
KENT.

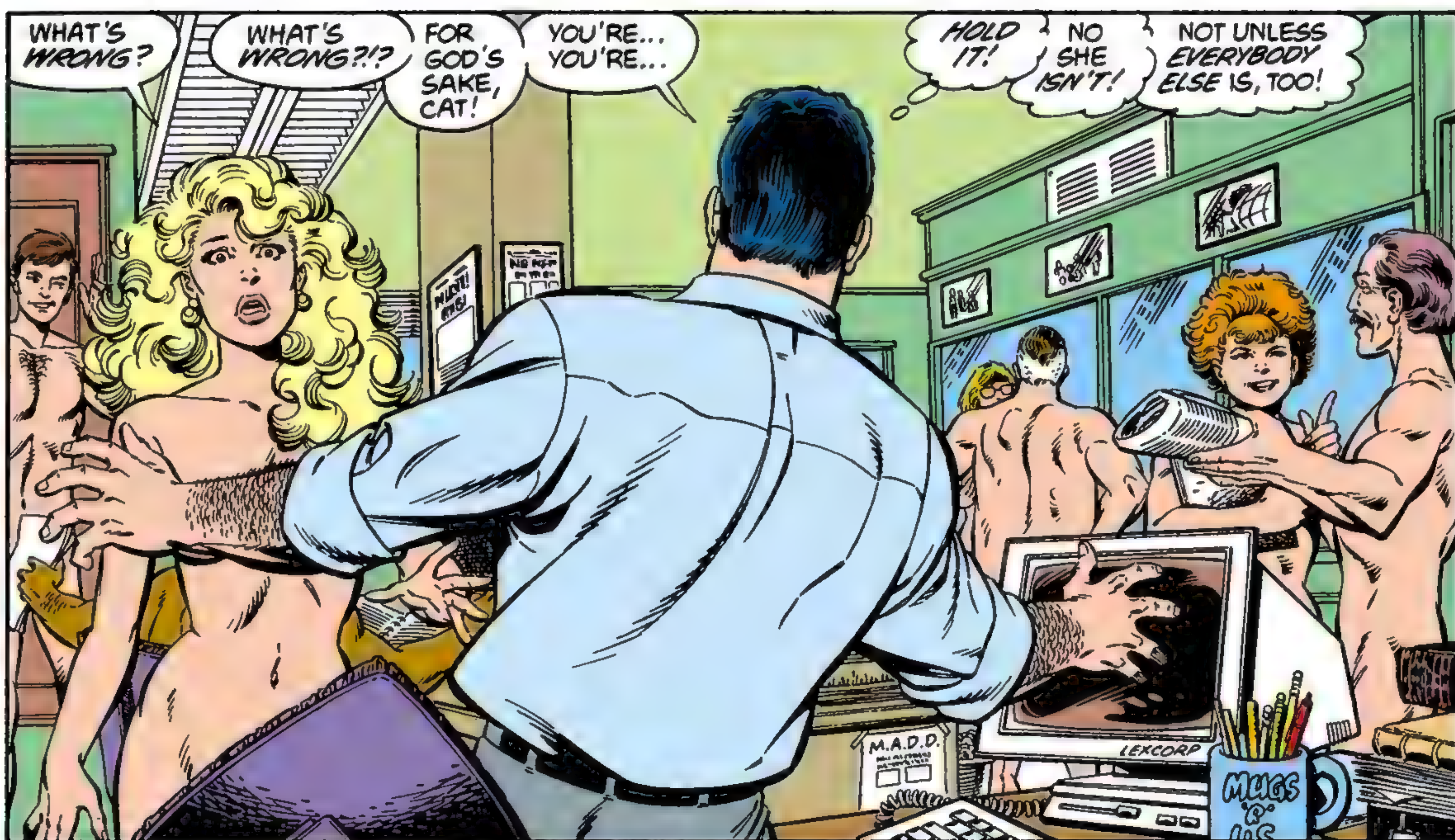
HI, MR.
KENT!

...KENT.









WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT'S WRONG?!

FOR GOD'S SAKE, CAT!

YOU'RE... YOU'RE...

HOLD IT!

NO SHE ISN'T!

NOT UNLESS EVERYBODY ELSE IS, TOO!



IT'S MY X-RAY VISION ACTING UP AGAIN!

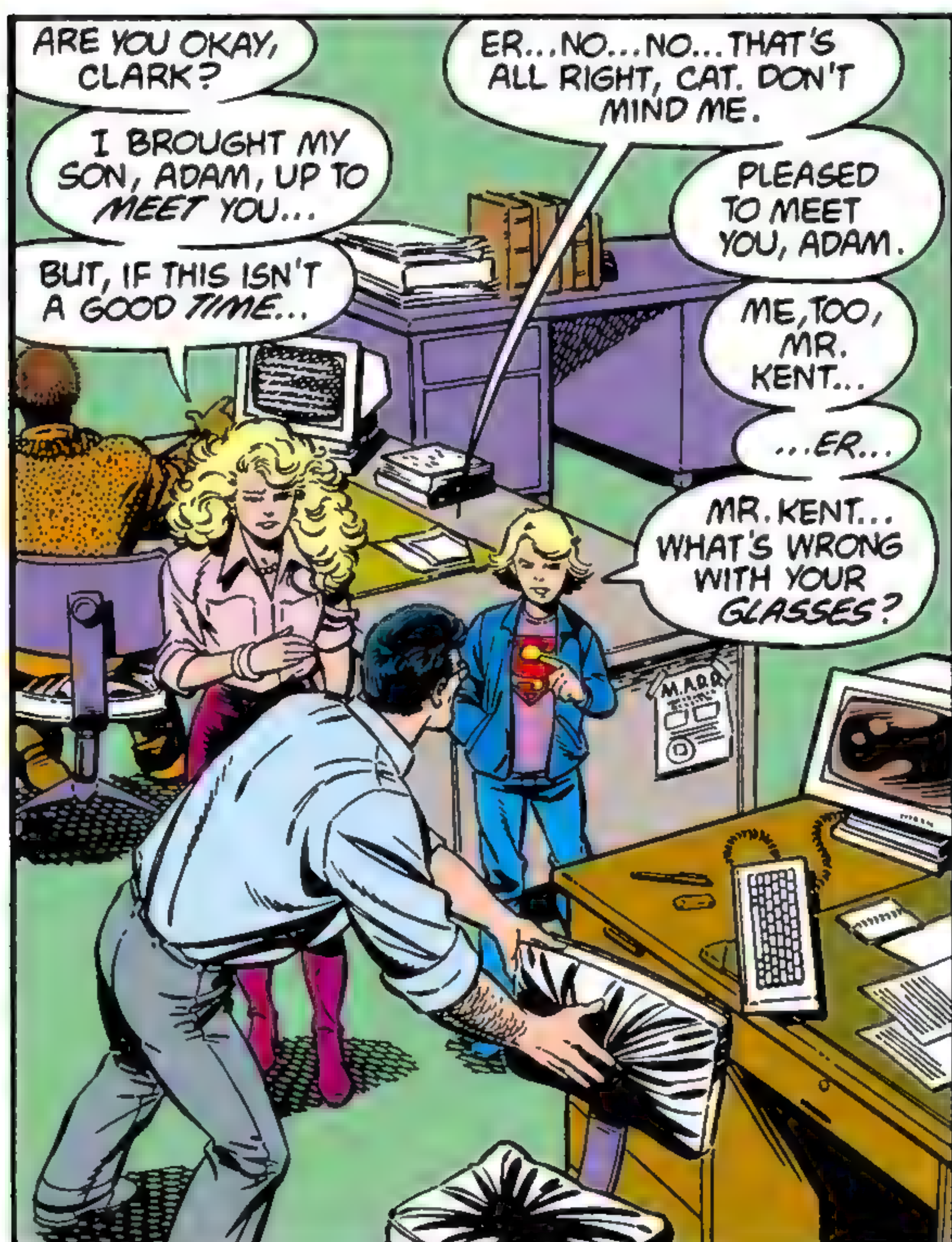
BUT THIS TIME INSTEAD OF SEEING ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THEIR BONES...

...I'M ONLY SEEING THROUGH PEOPLE'S CLOTHING!

HOW CAN I STOP...

WAIT...

IT'S STOPPED BY ITSELF!



ARE YOU OKAY, CLARK?

I BROUGHT MY SON, ADAM, UP TO MEET YOU...

BUT, IF THIS ISN'T A GOOD TIME...

ER...NO...NO...THAT'S ALL RIGHT, CAT. DON'T MIND ME.

PLEASD TO MEET YOU, ADAM.

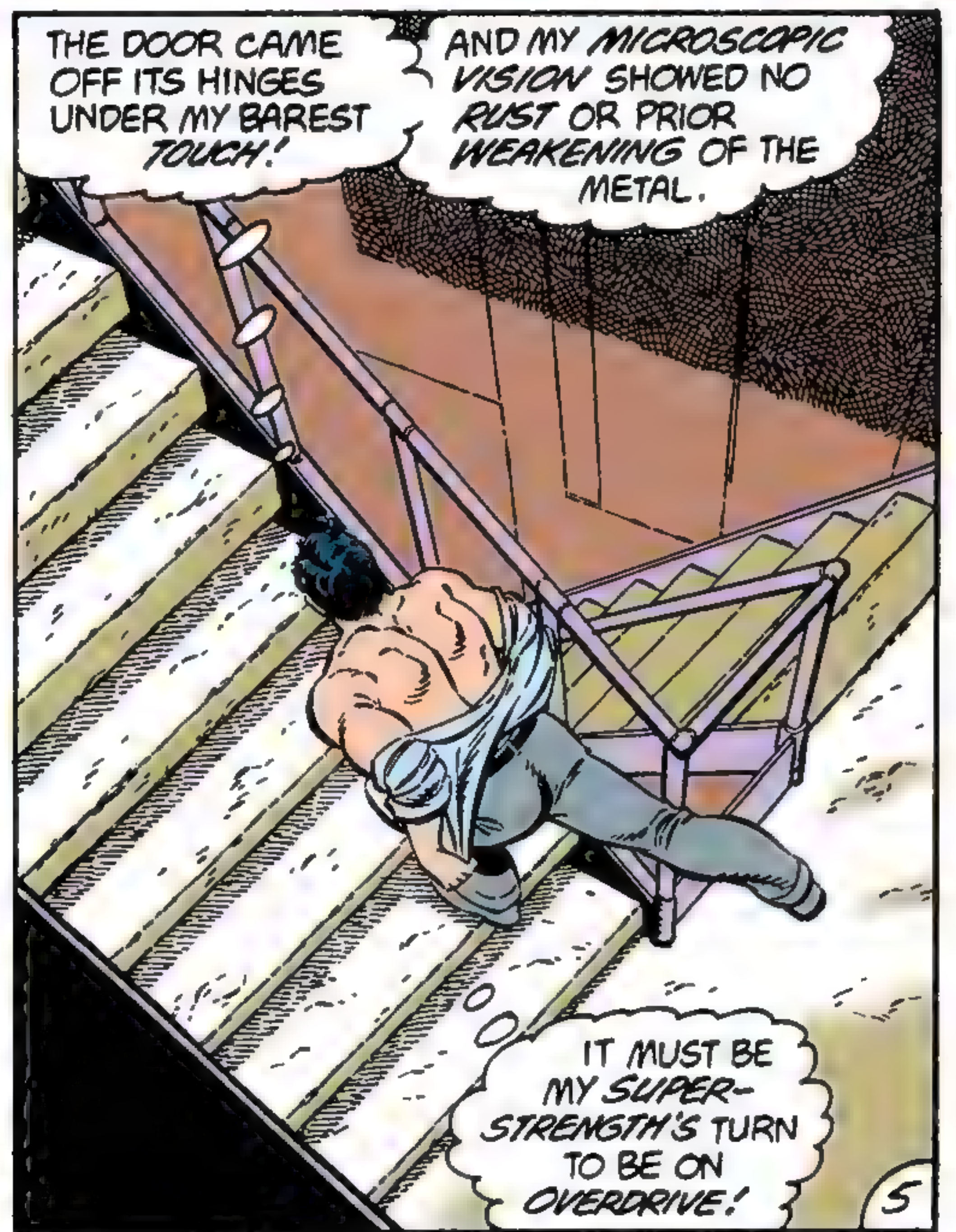
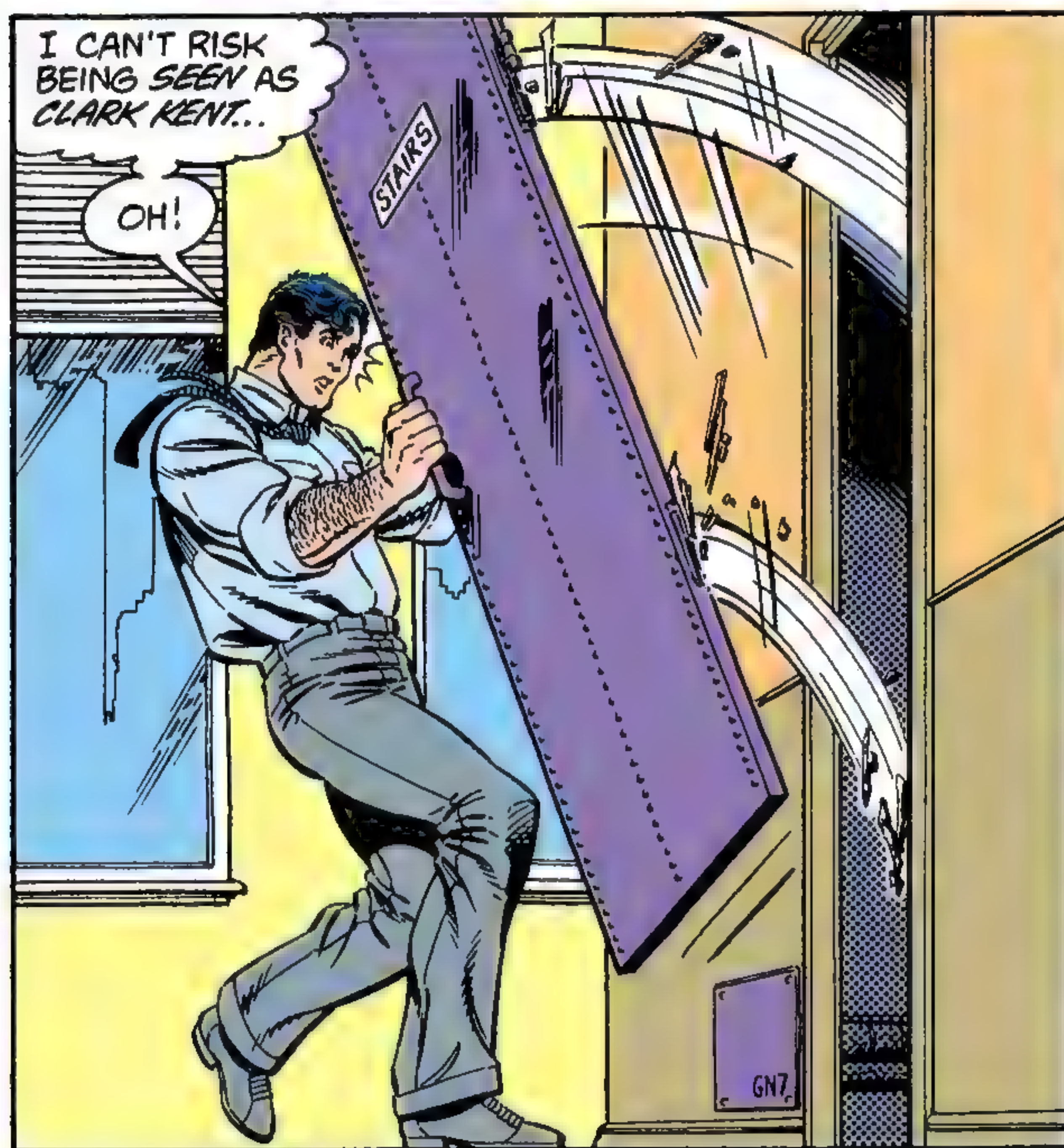
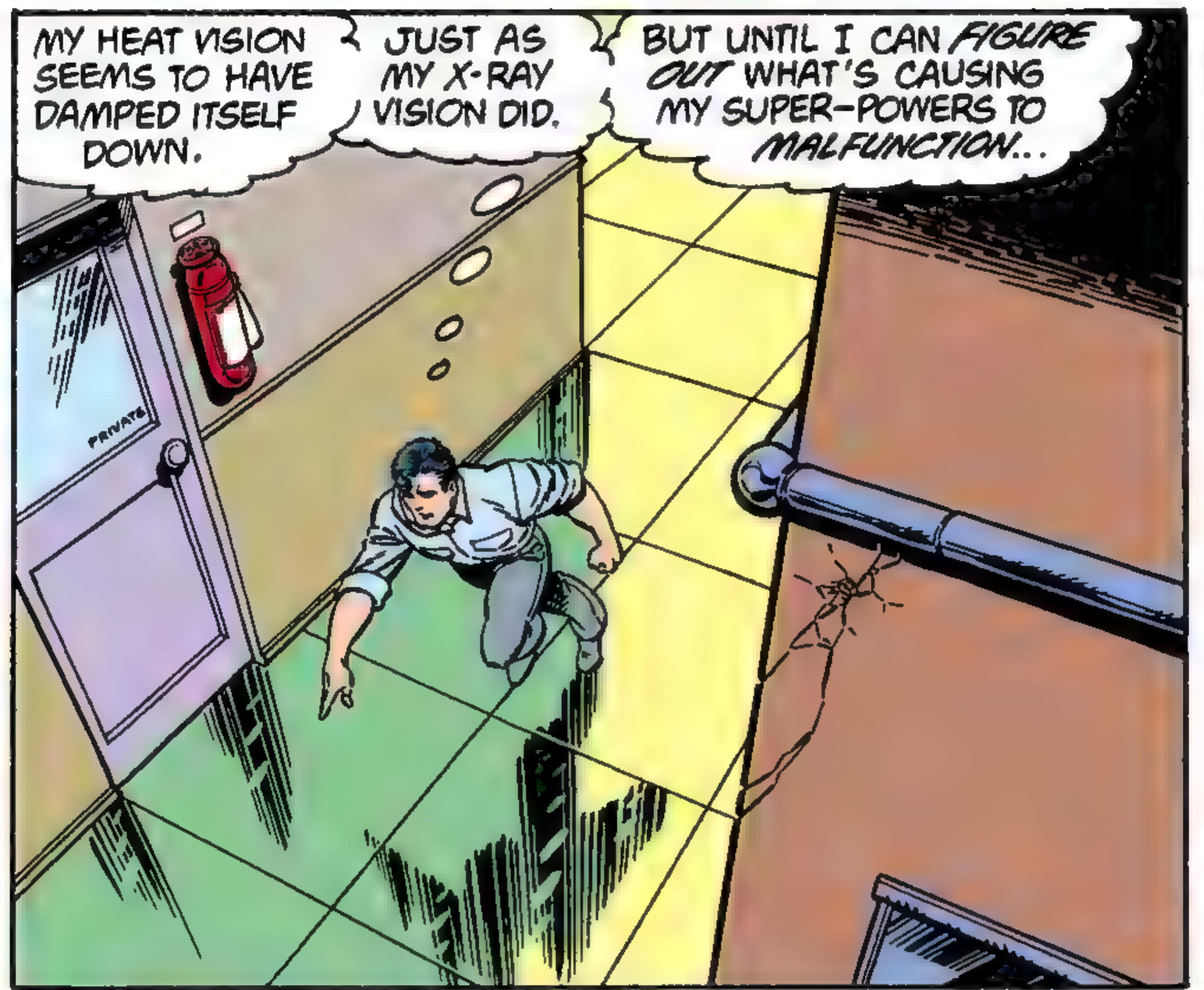
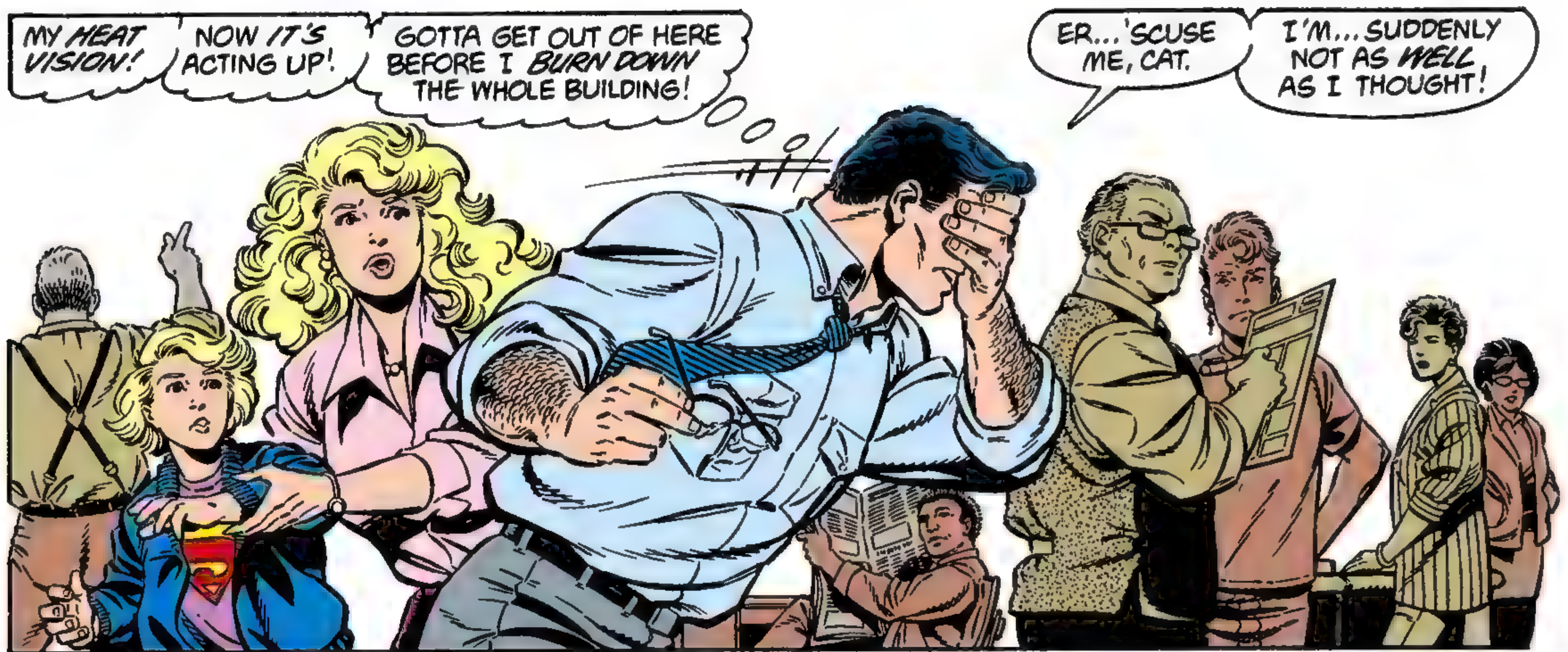
ME, TOO, MR. KENT...

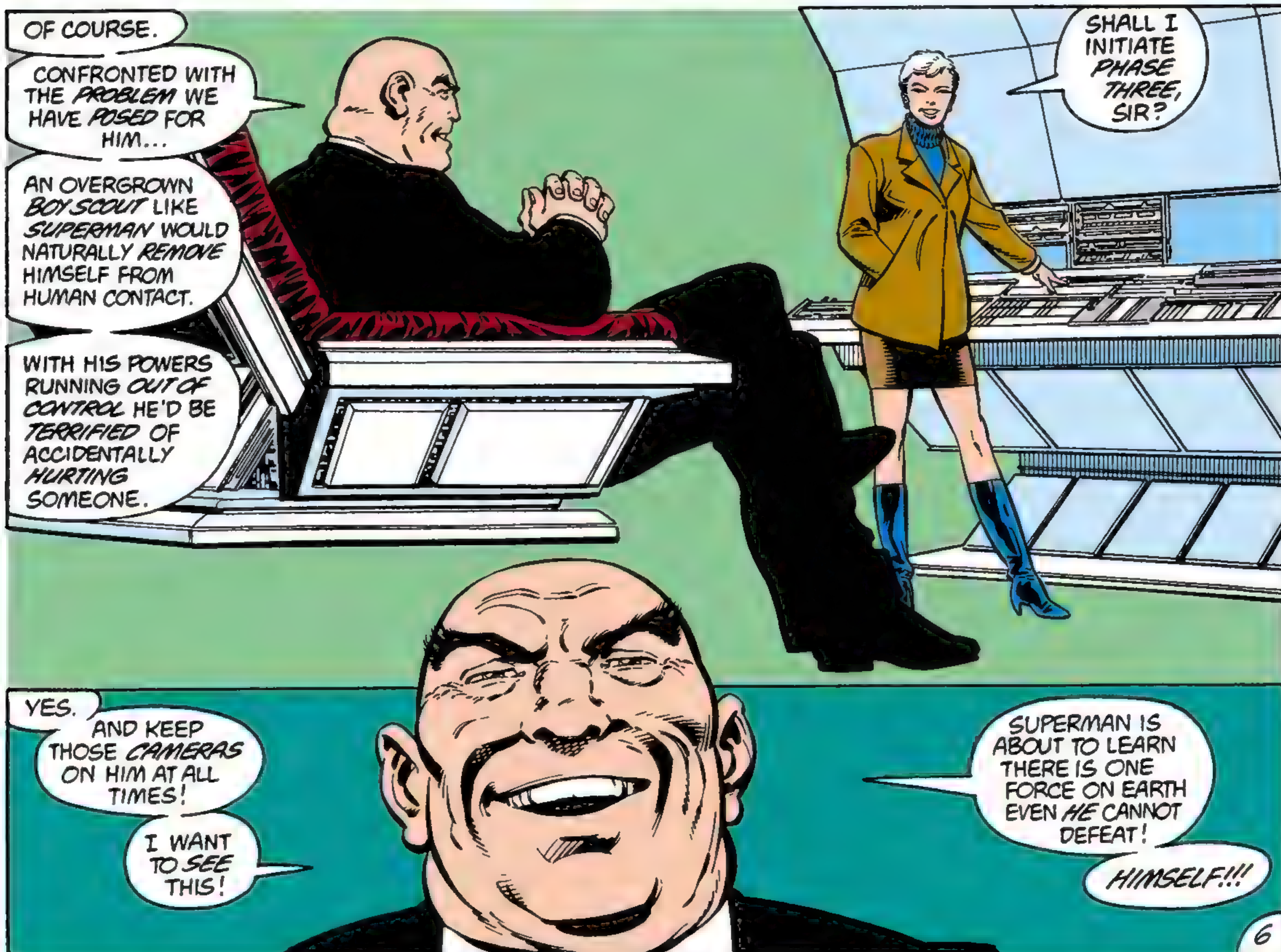
...ER...

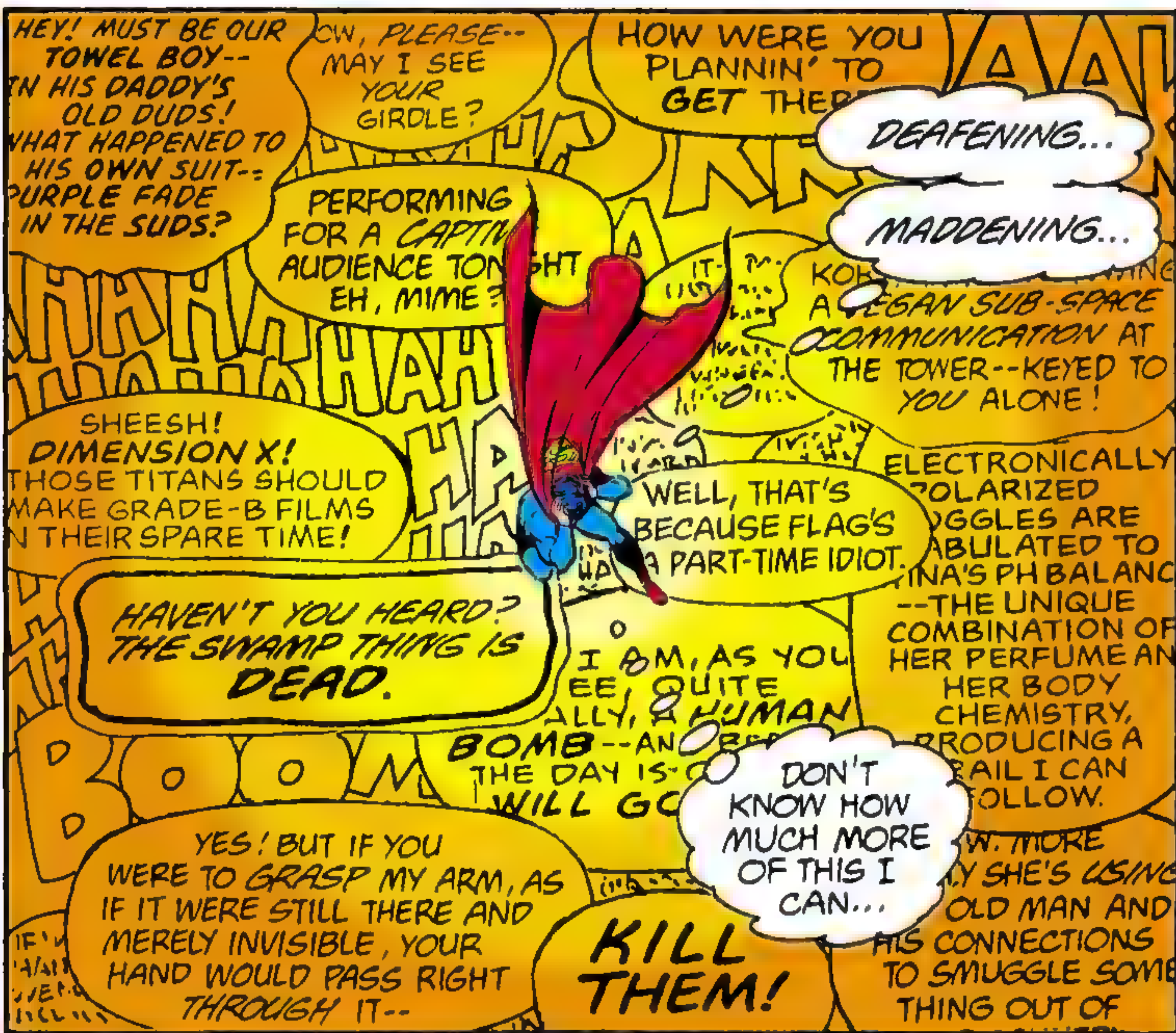
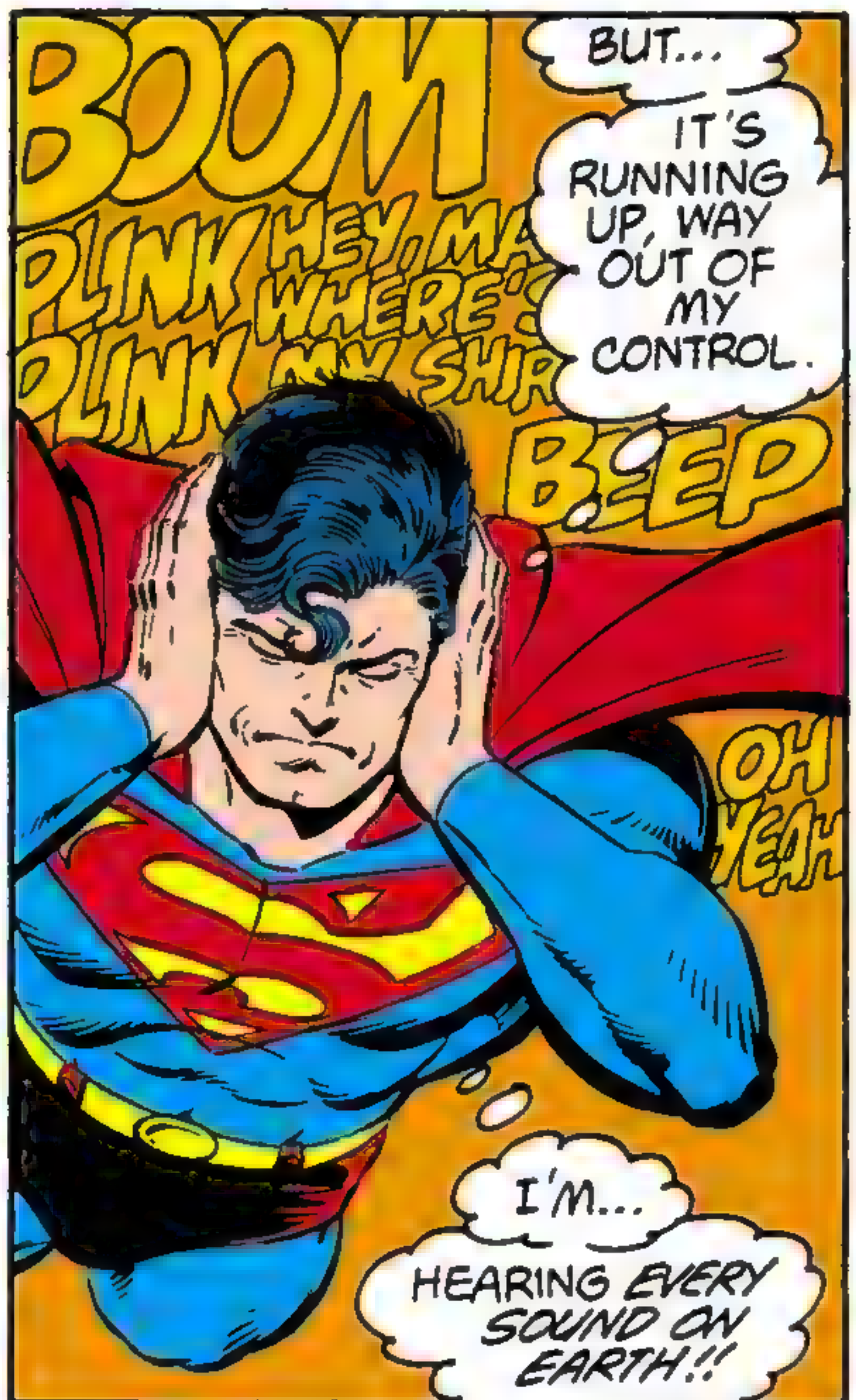
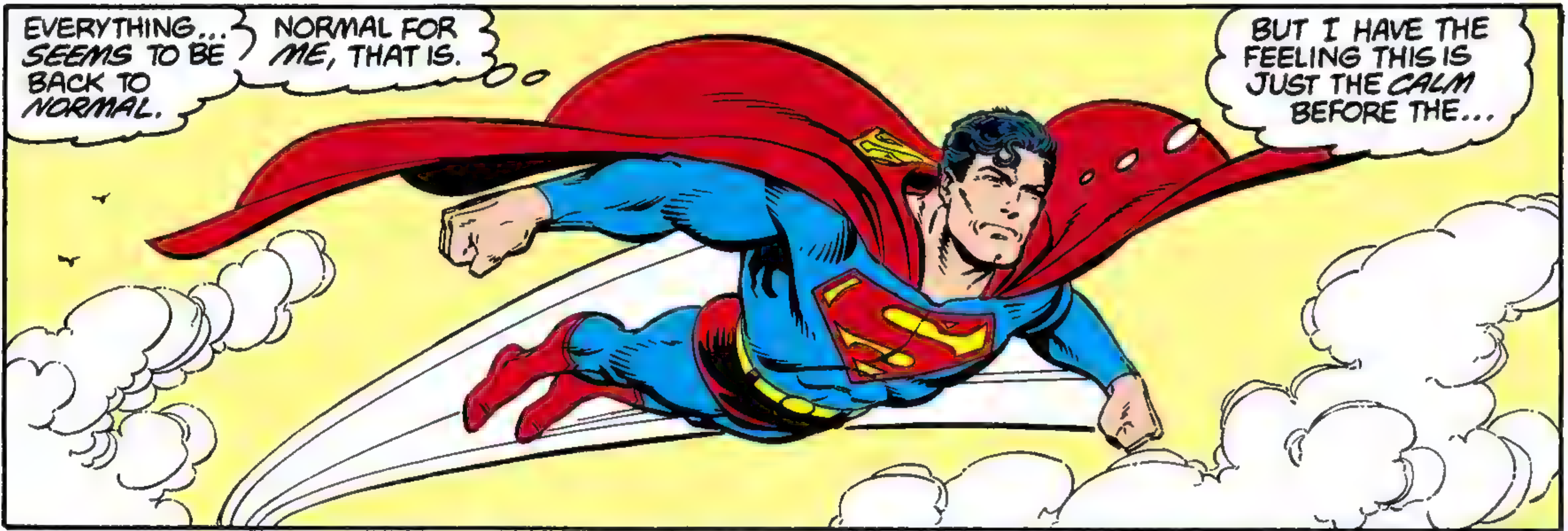
MR. KENT... WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR GLASSES?



MY...??







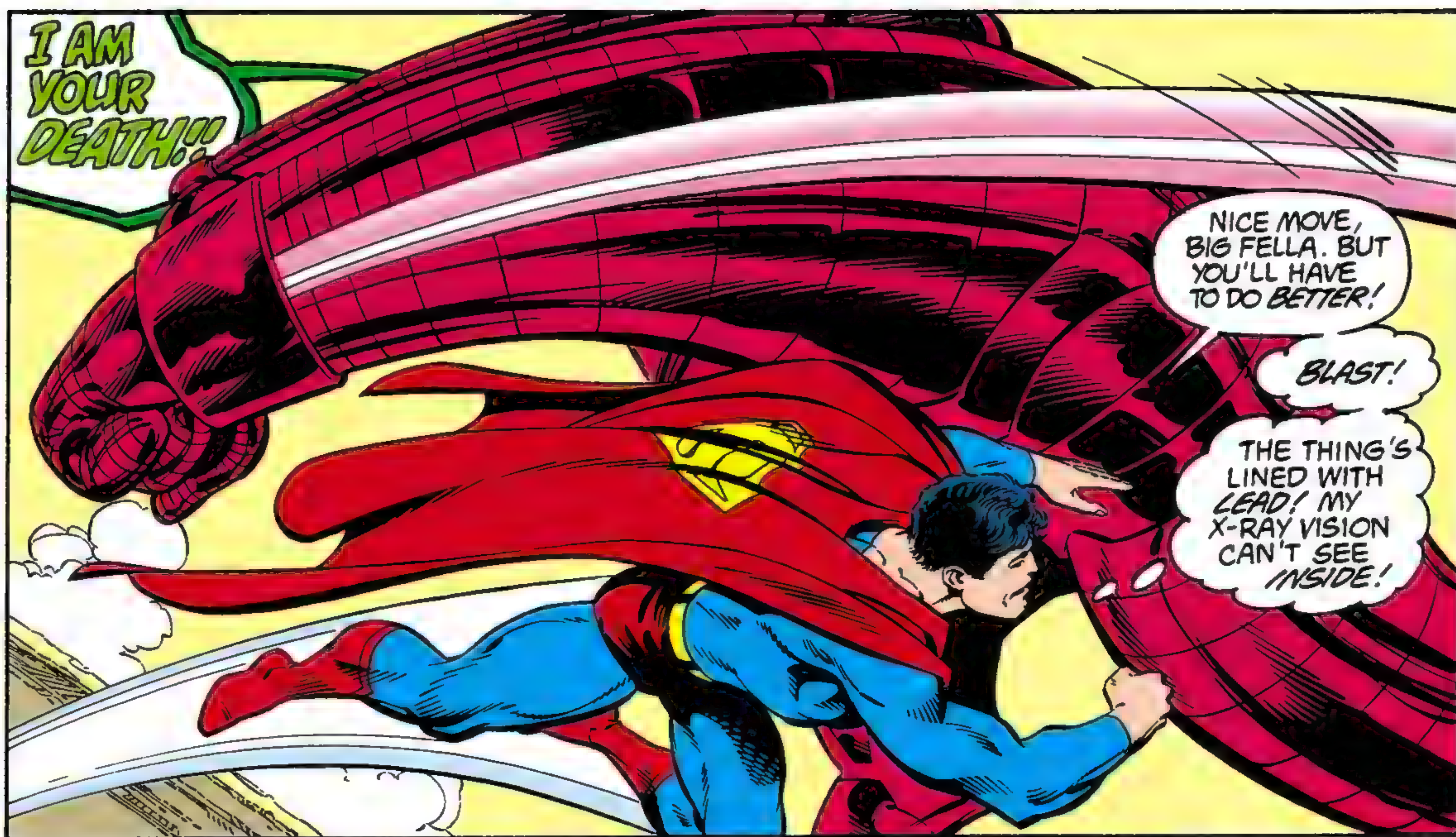
A full-page comic book illustration. Superman, in his classic blue suit with a red 'S' and red cape, is flying through the air towards the right. He has a determined expression. In the foreground, a large, red, mechanical monster with a segmented body and a large, open mouth is flying towards him. The background is a bright yellow sky with some white clouds at the bottom. There are three speech bubbles and one large text box. The first speech bubble is from Superman, the second is from the monster, and the third is from the monster. The large text box contains the monster's dialogue.

OH, NO!

NOT ANOTHER
WOULD-BE WORLD
BEATER!

THAT IS
ABSOLUTELY
THE LAST THING
I NEED RIGHT
NOW!

YOUR FINAL
HOUR IS
STRUCK!
I AM
KLAASH!!!



I AM
YOUR
DEATH!!!

NICE MOVE,
BIG FELLA. BUT
YOU'LL HAVE
TO DO BETTER!

BLAST!

THE THING'S
LINED WITH
LEAD! MY
X-RAY VISION
CAN'T SEE
INSIDE!



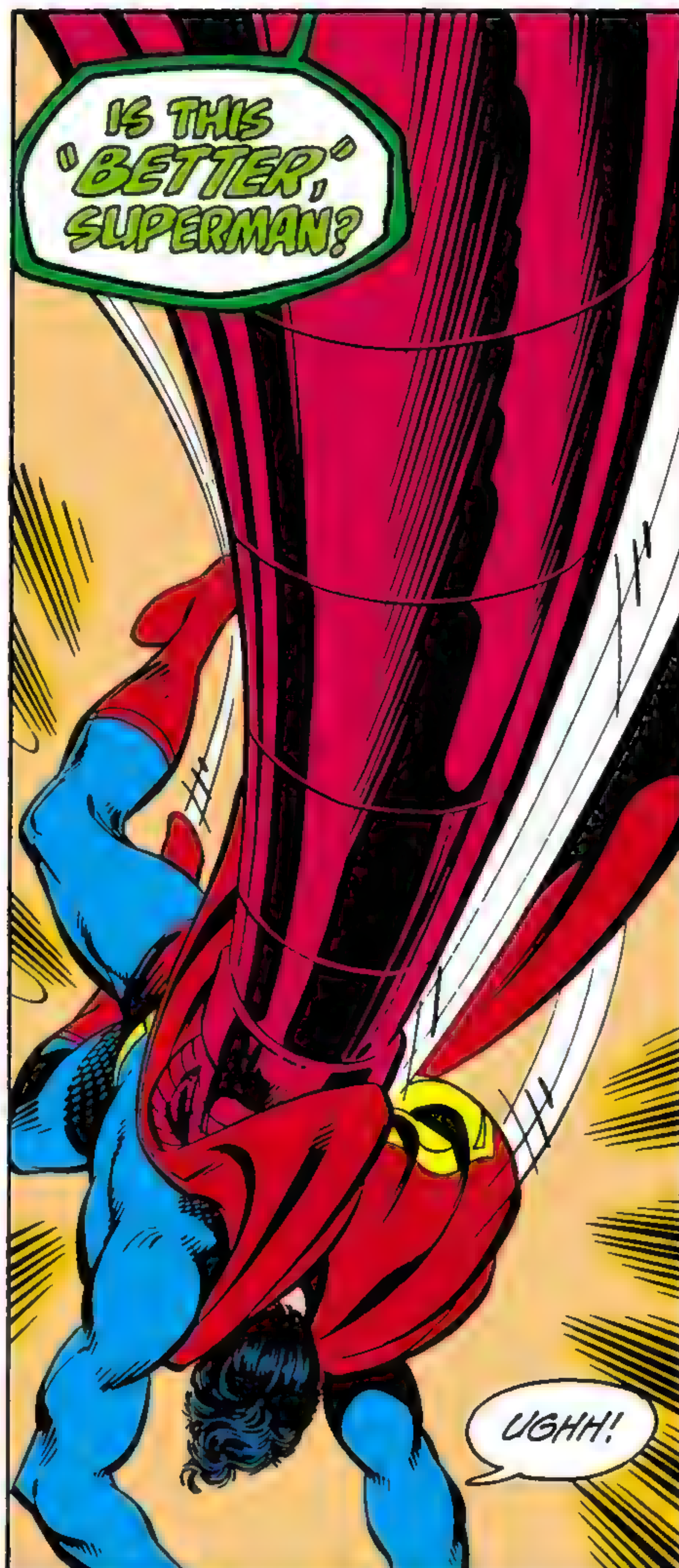
I DON'T KNOW
IF THIS IS
SOME KIND
OF ROBOT...

OR A MAN
IN A SUPER-
SUIT.

AND UNTIL
I CAN BE
SURE I
DON'T DARE...

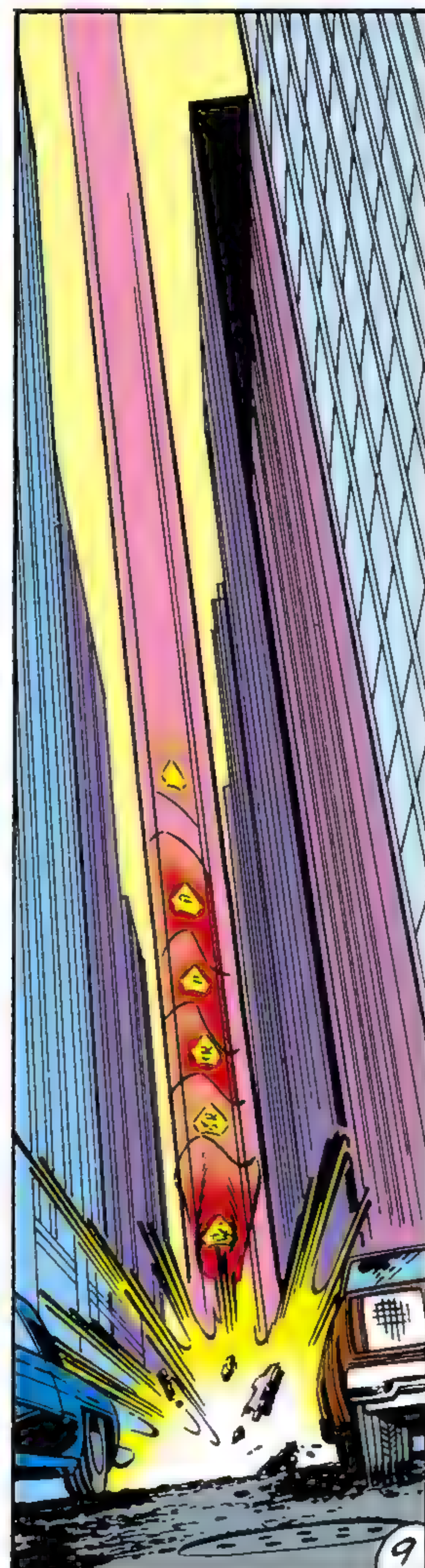
UH-OH...

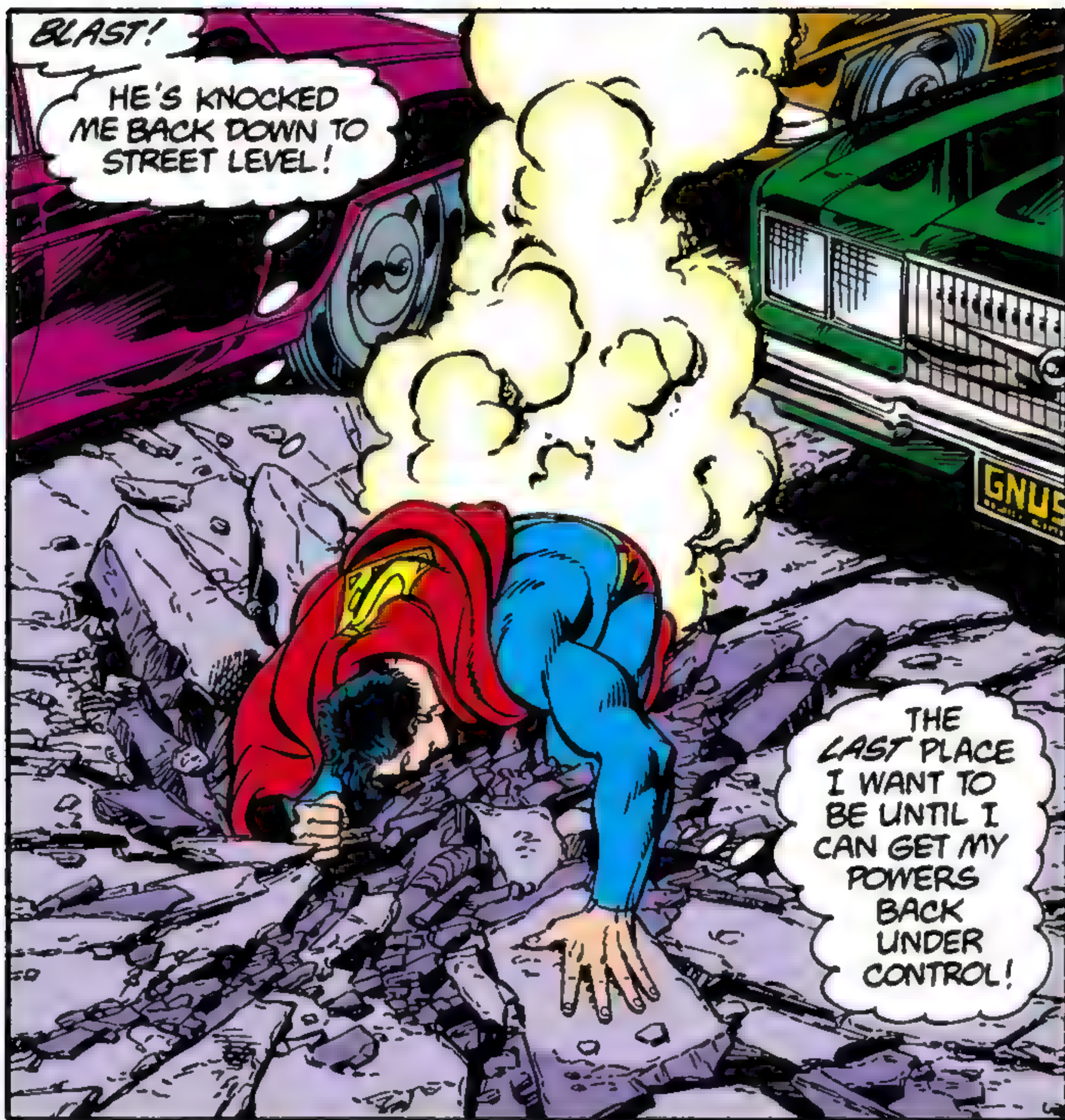
WHERE'S
HE GOTTEN
TO NOW...?

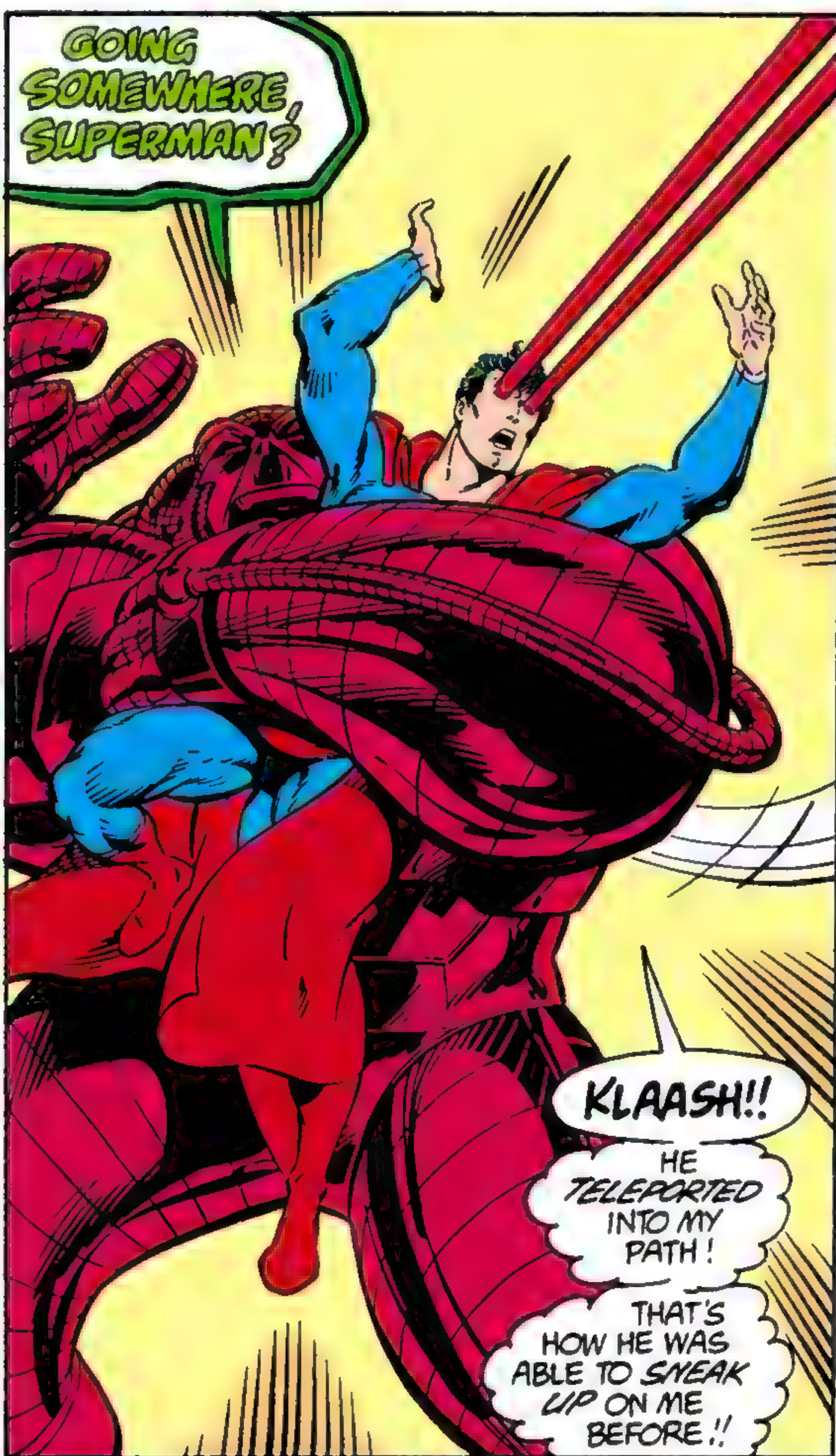
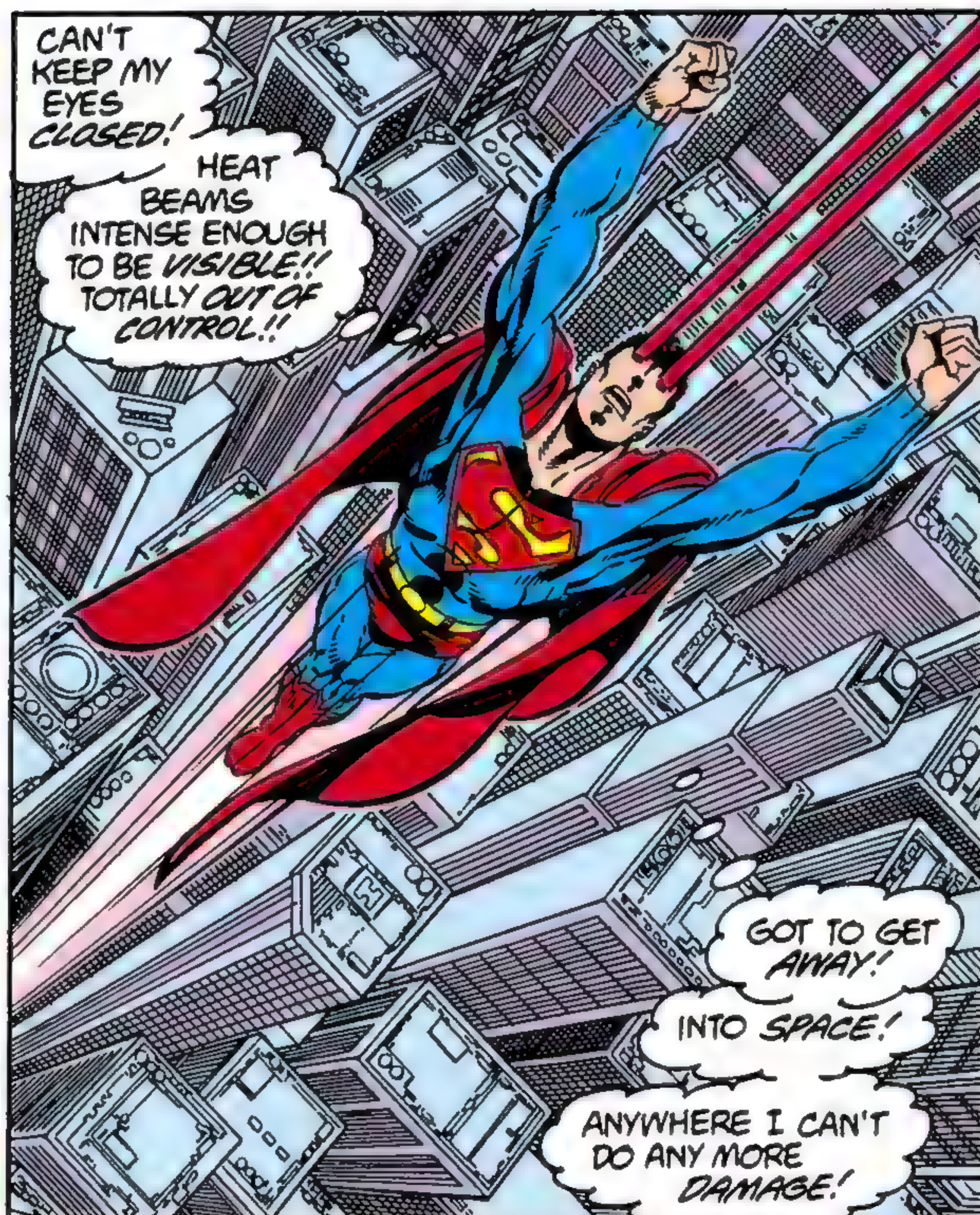


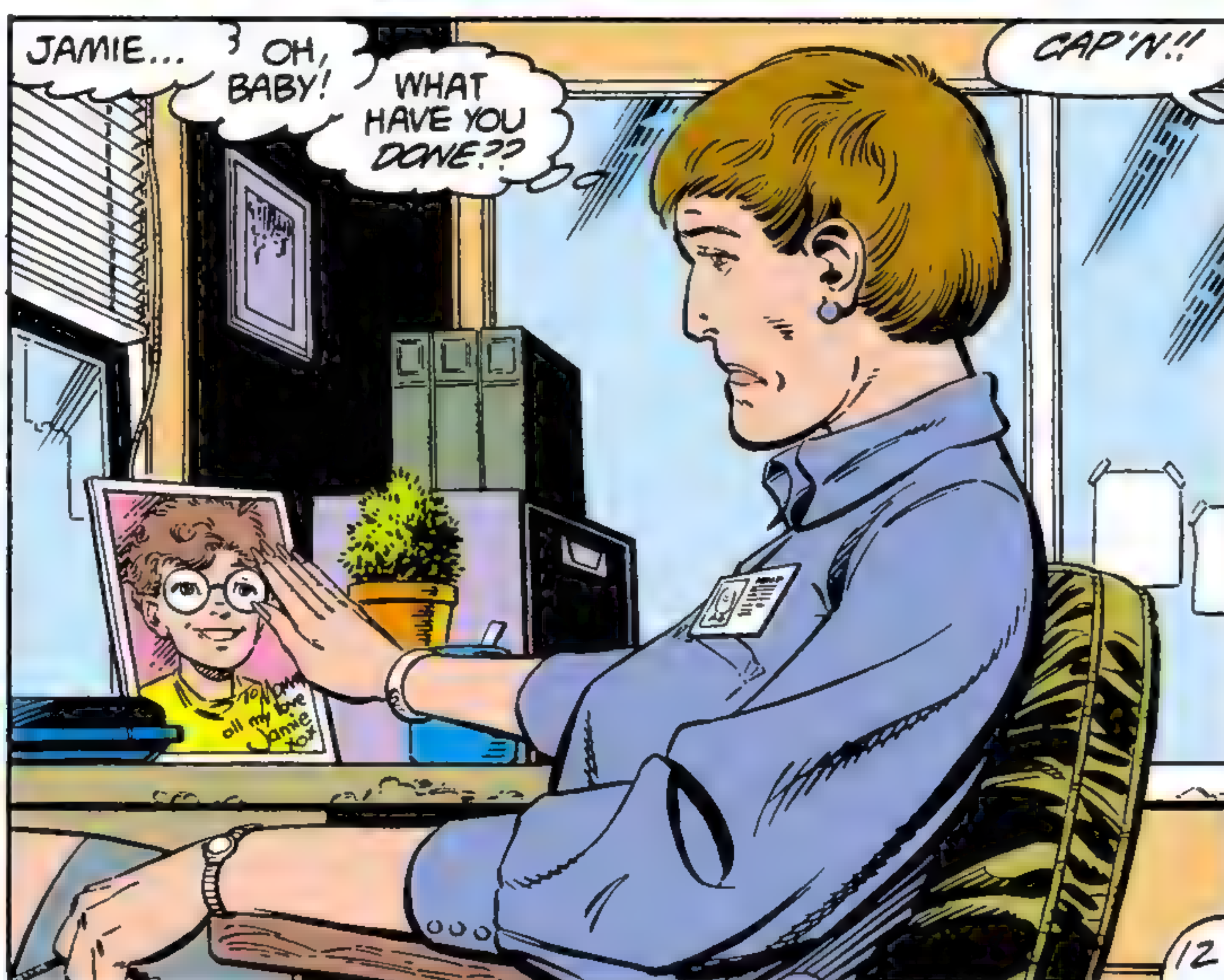
IS THIS
'BETTER,'
SUPERMAN?

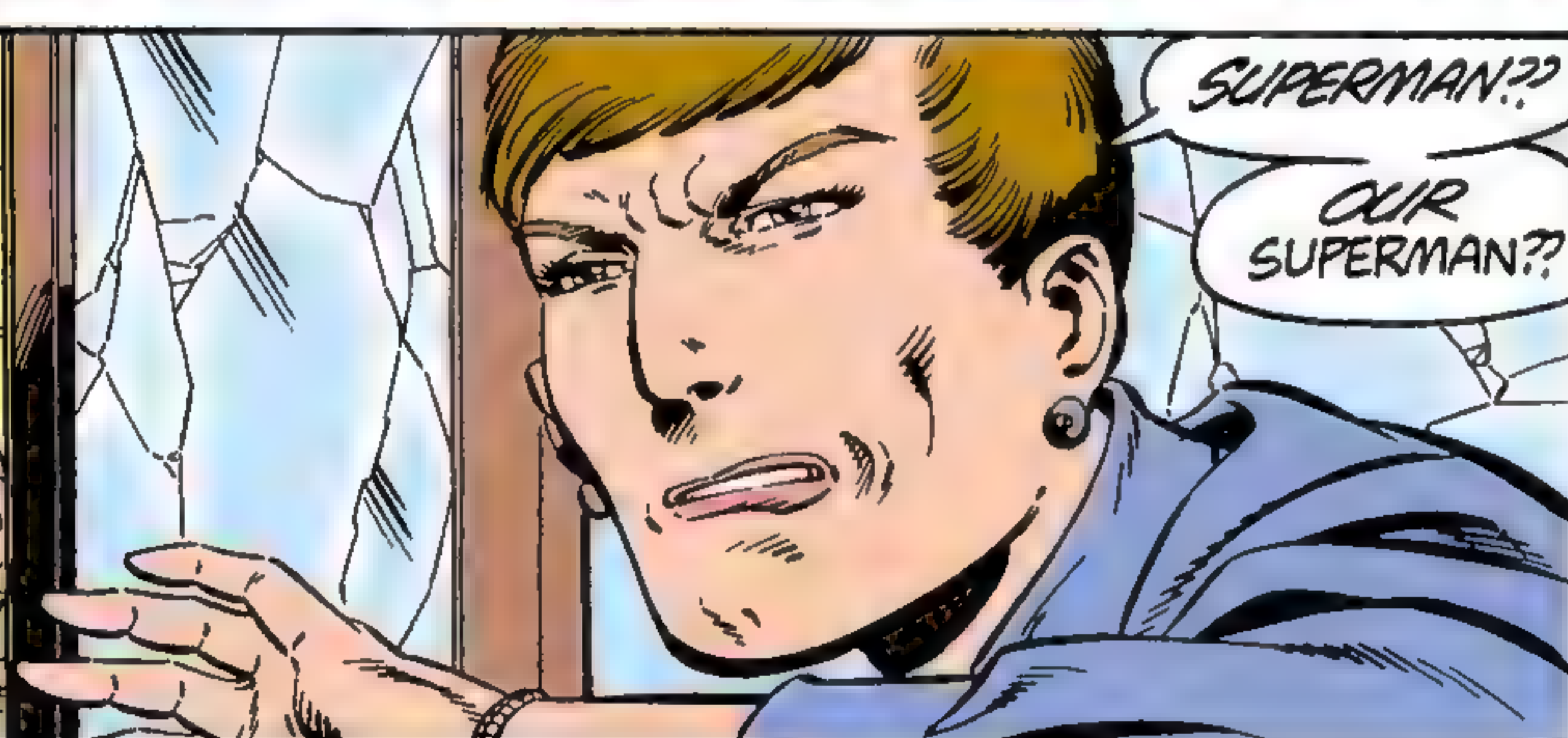
UGHH!

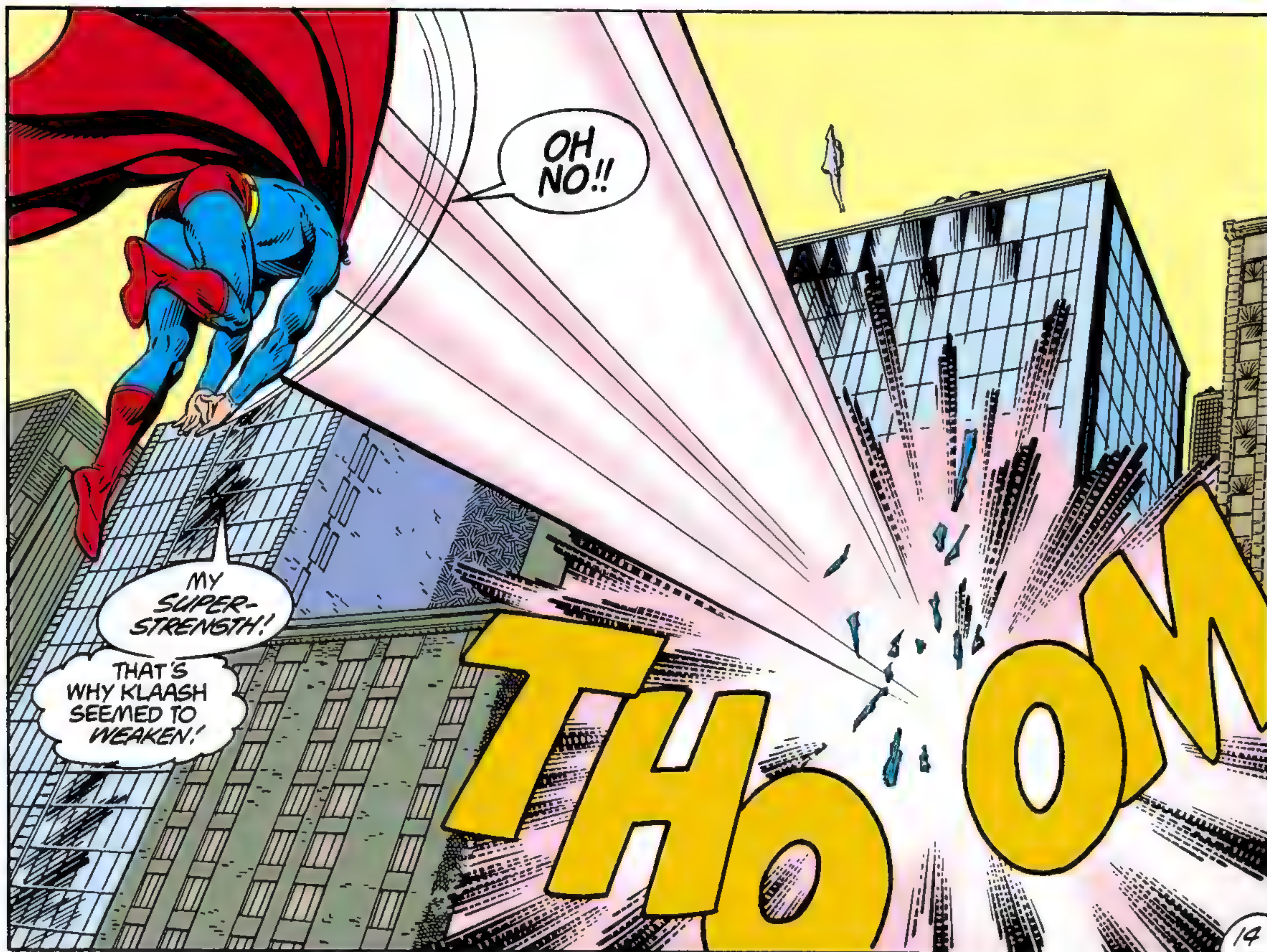
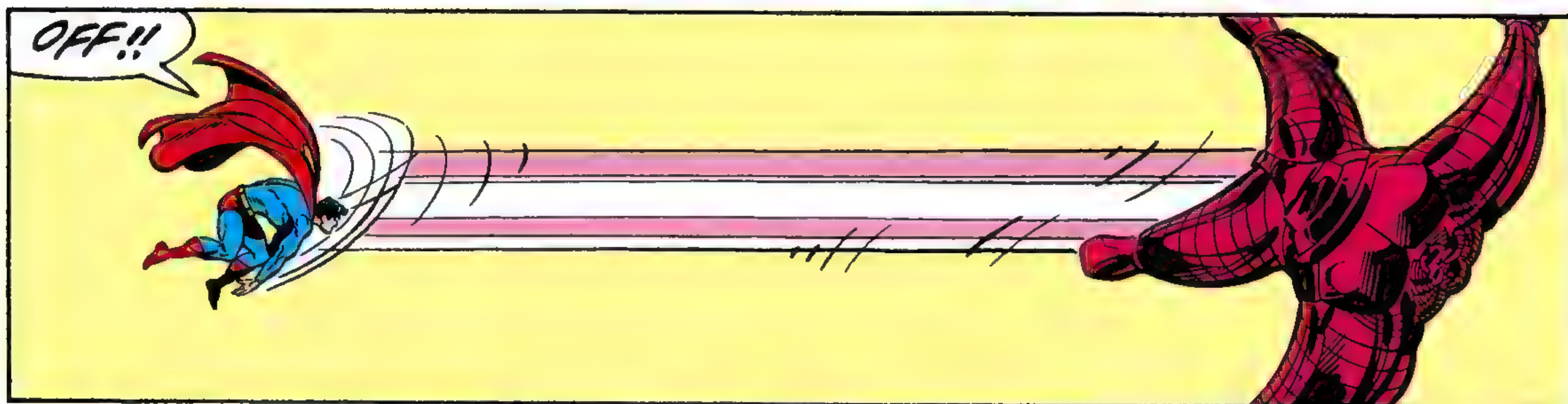
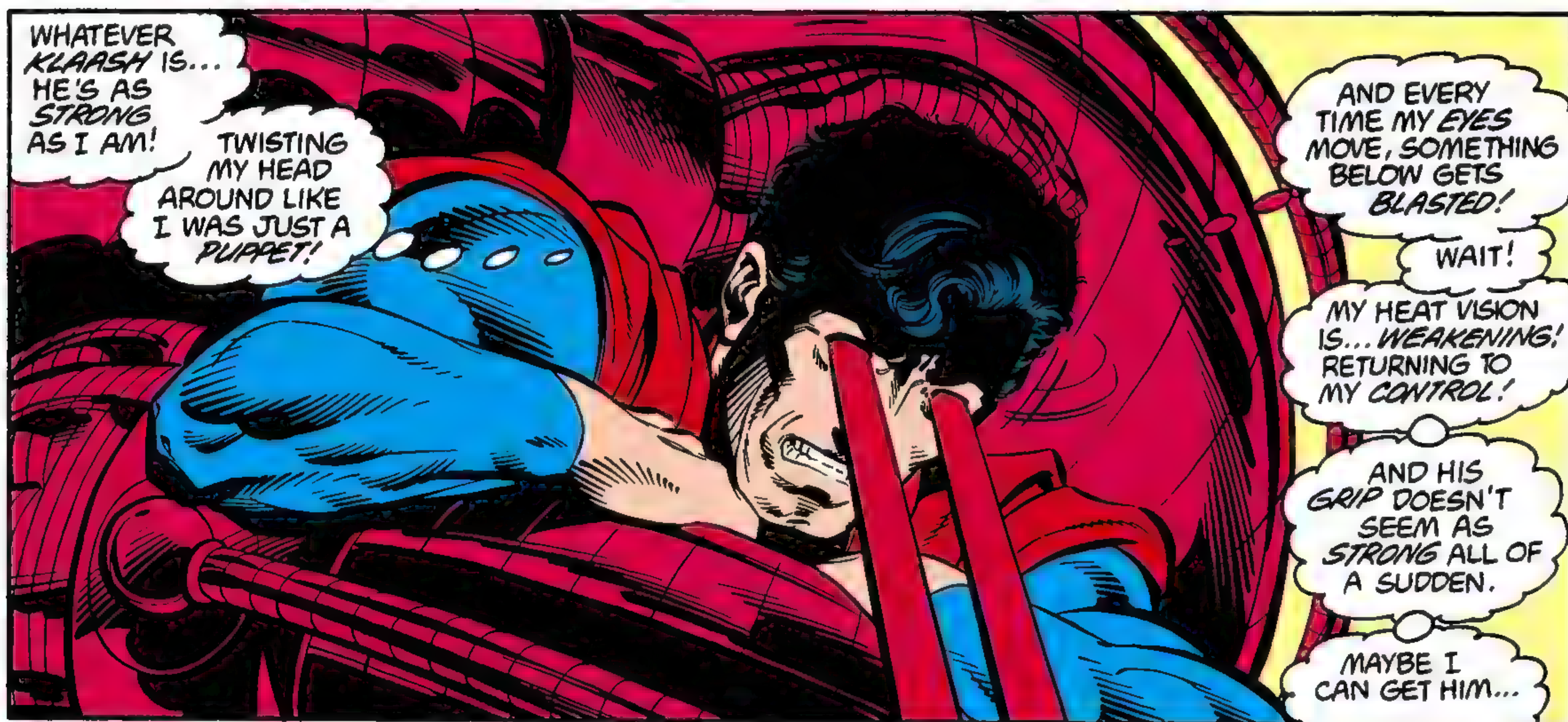


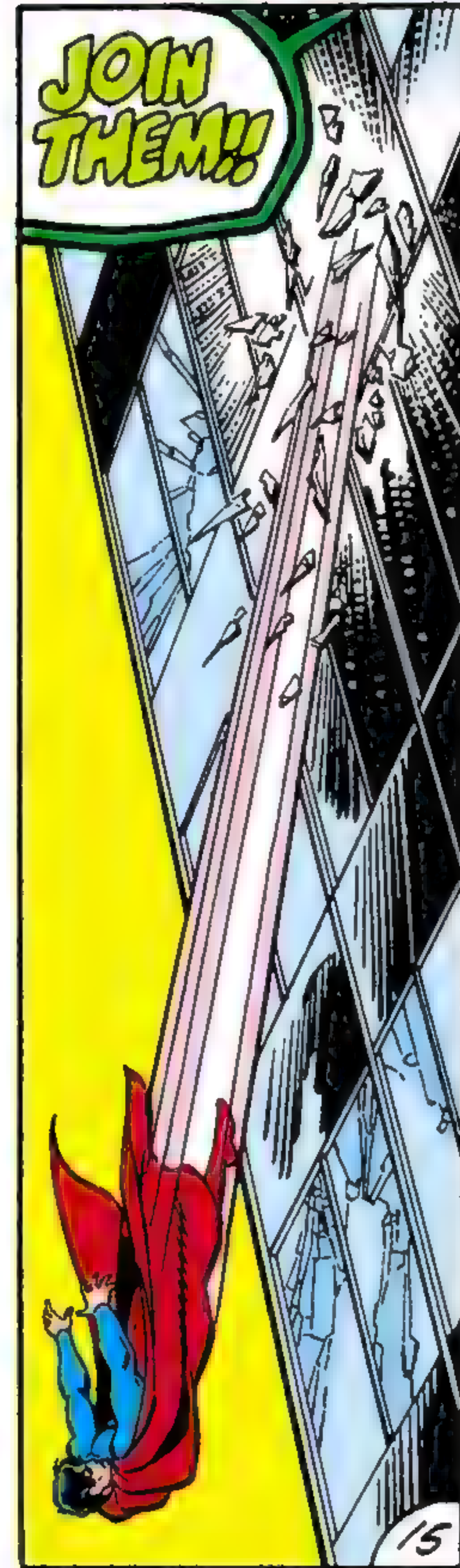
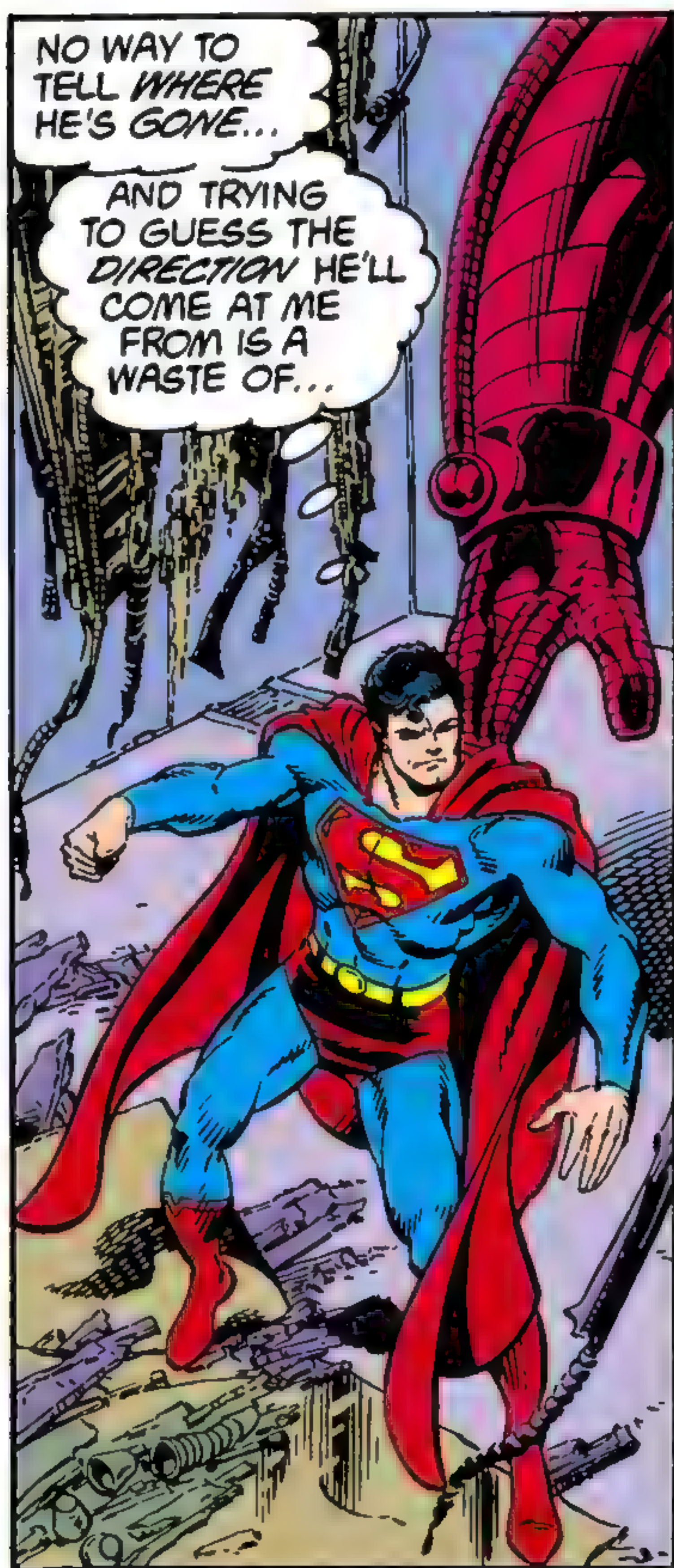
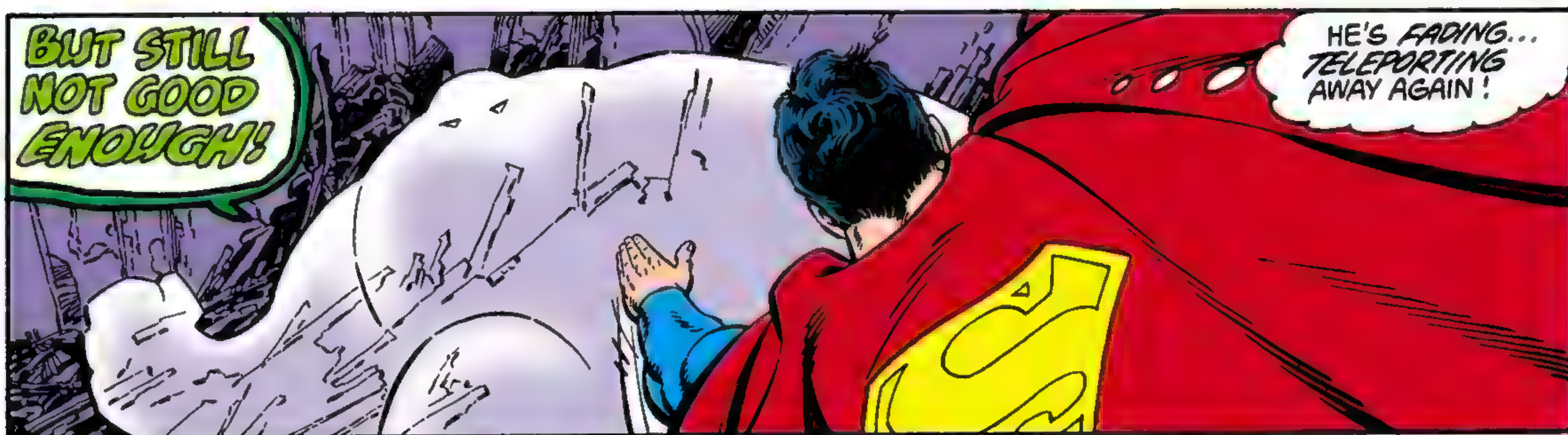


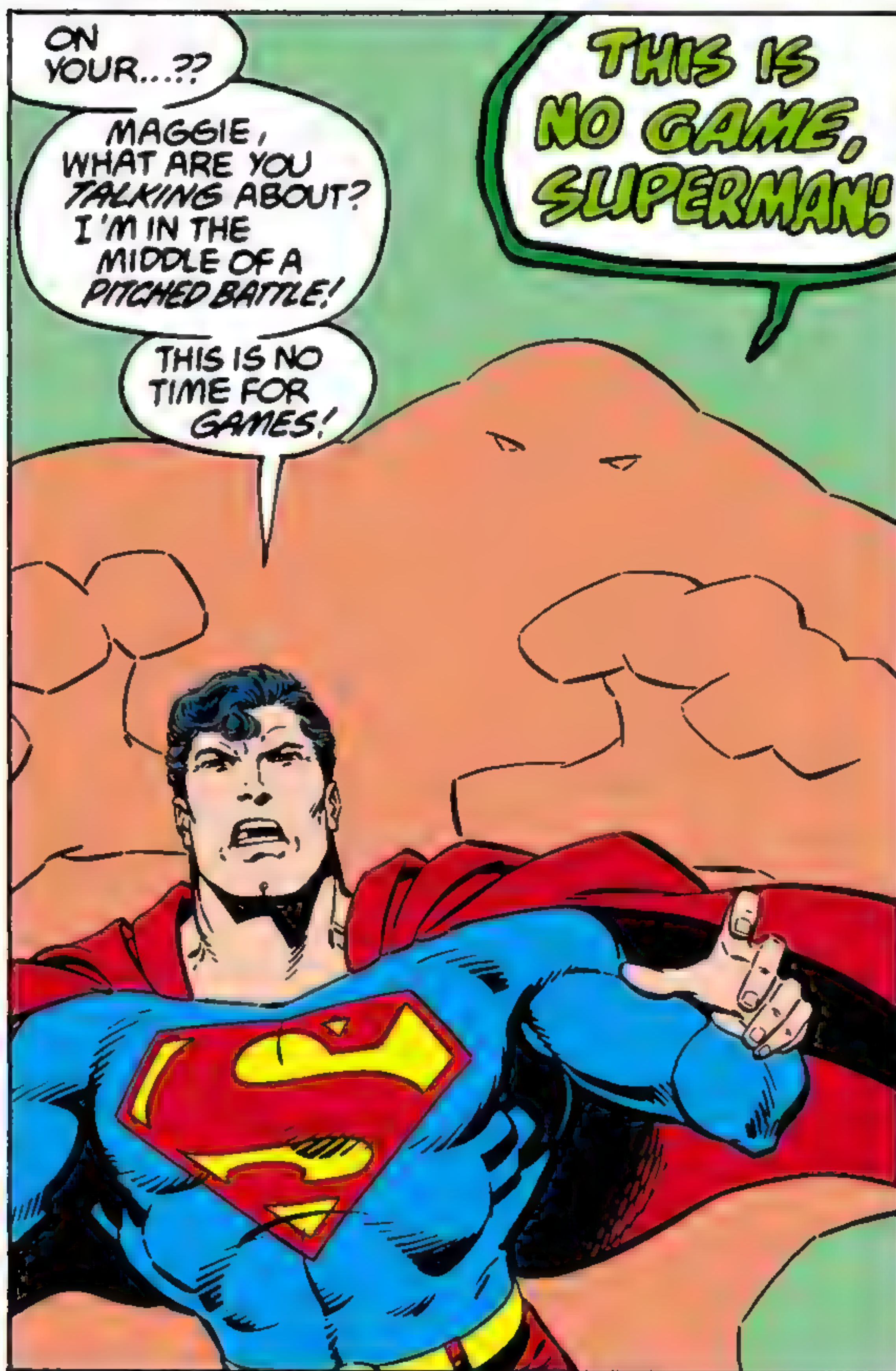




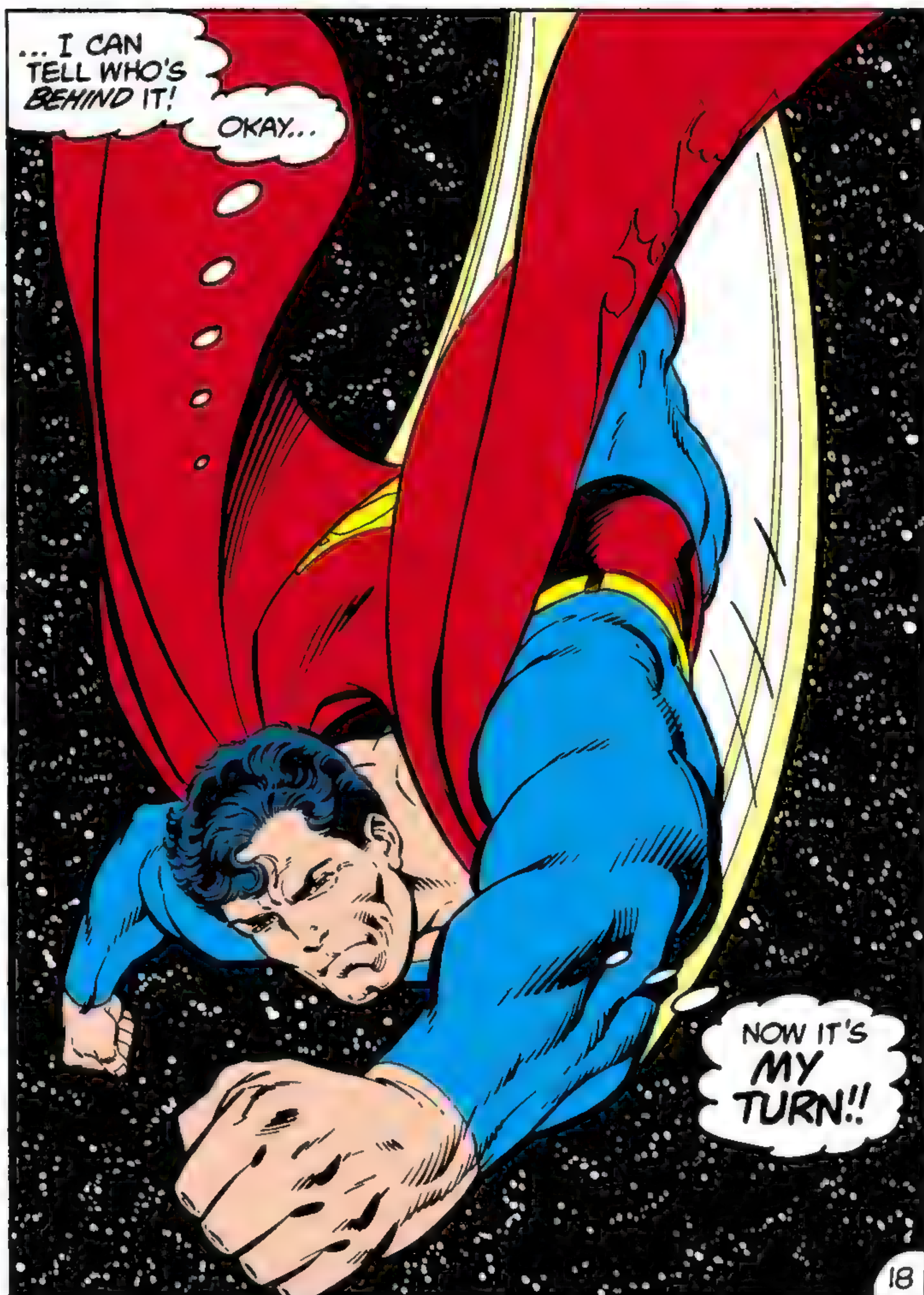


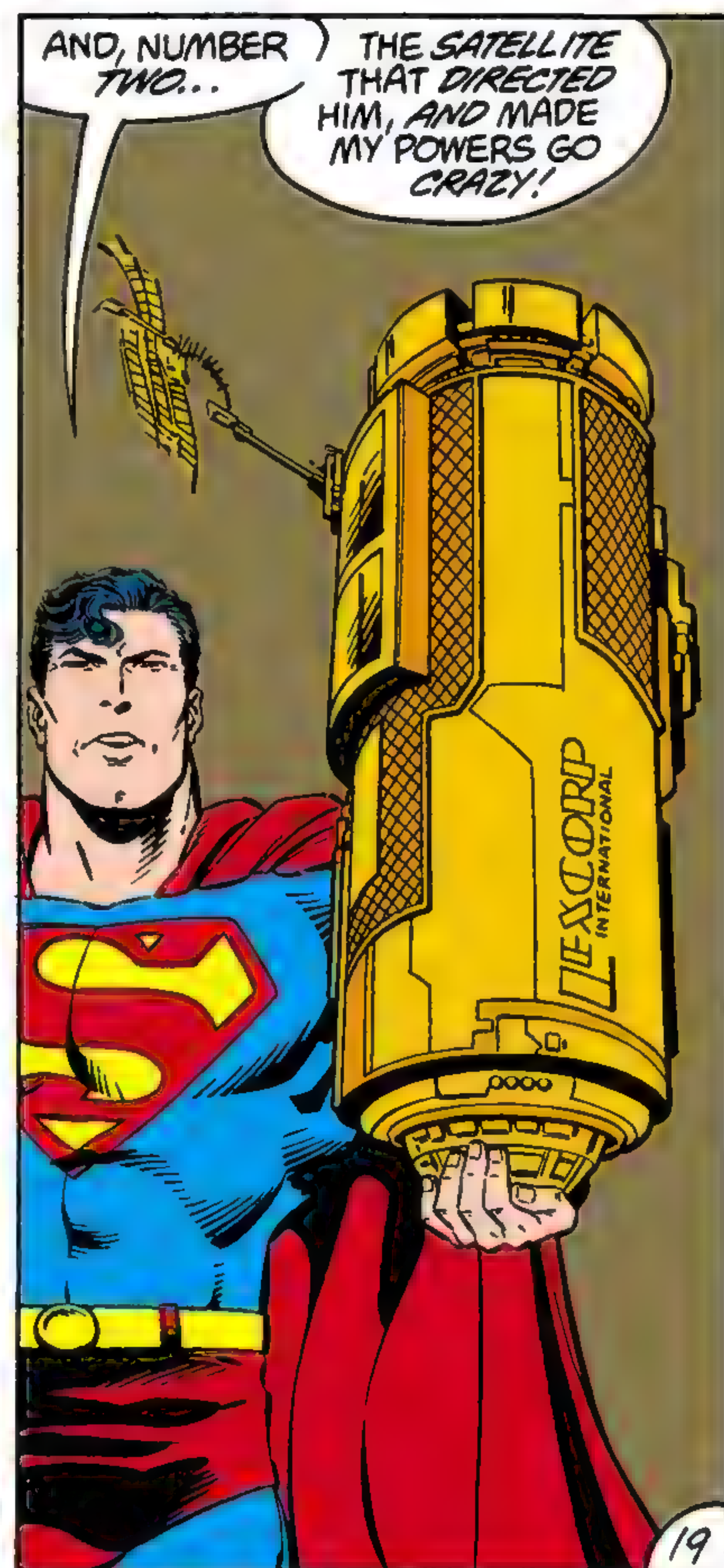
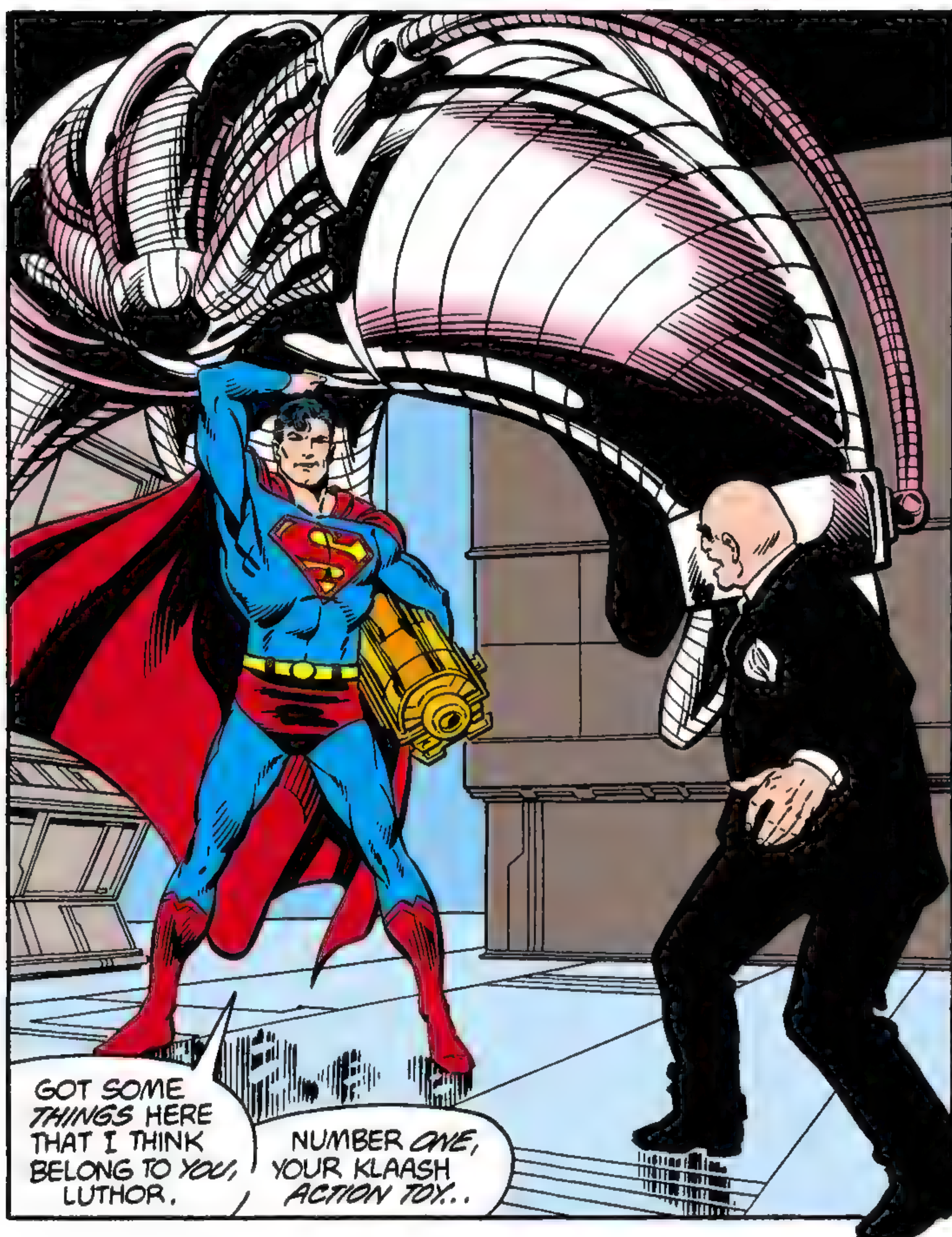
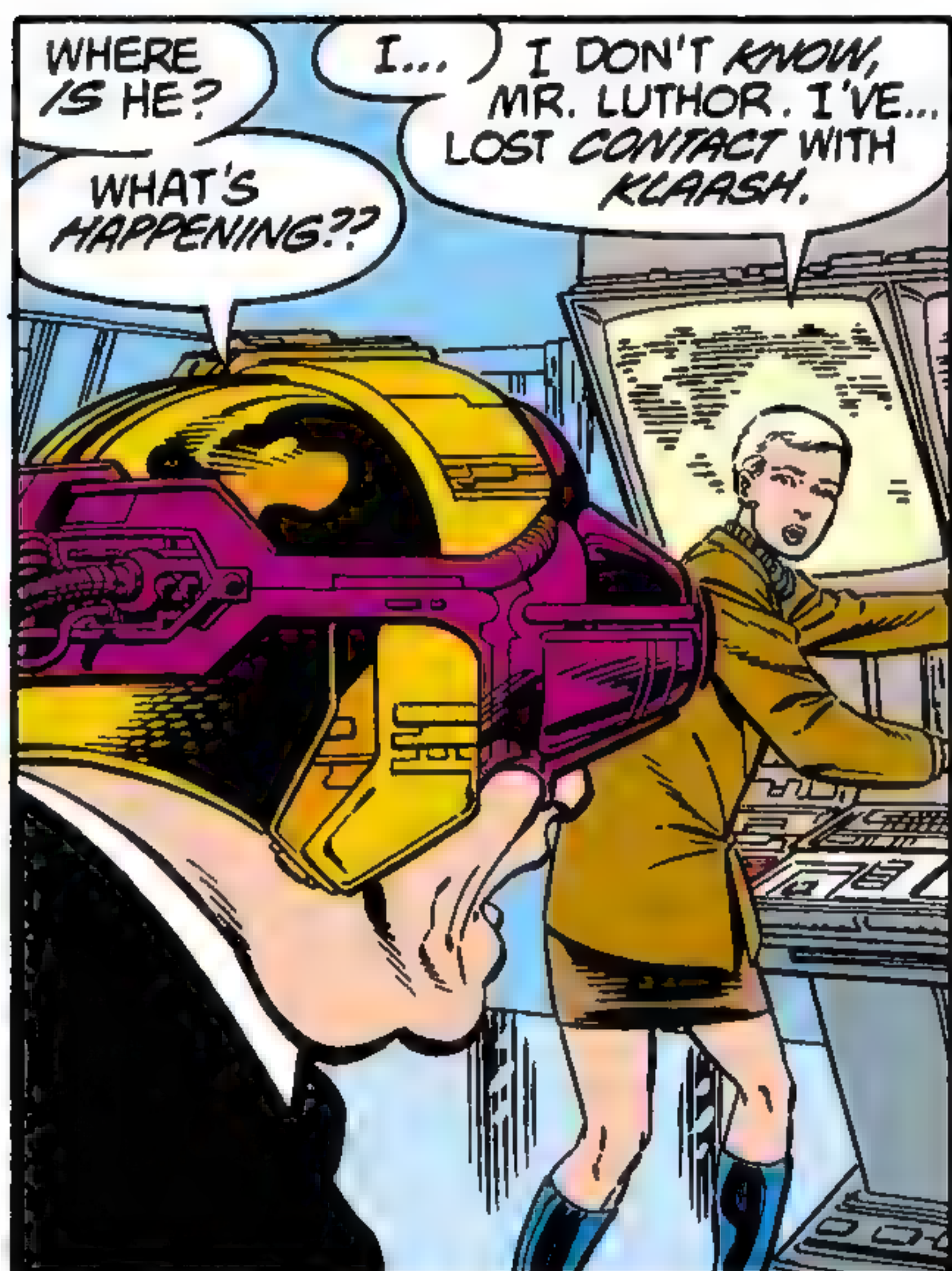


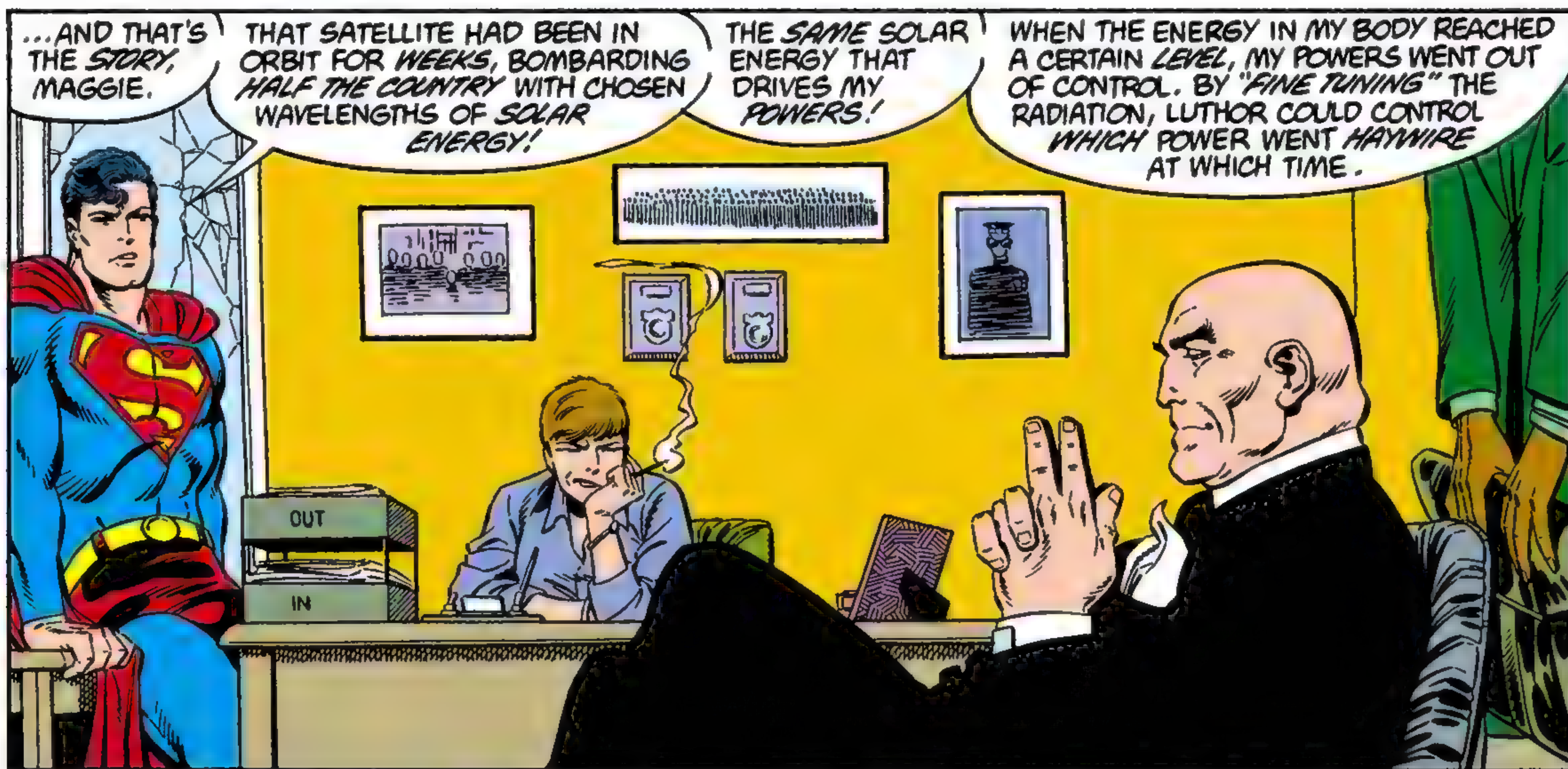












...AND THAT'S THE STORY, MAGGIE.

THAT SATELLITE HAD BEEN IN ORBIT FOR WEEKS, BOMBARDING HALF THE COUNTRY WITH CHOSEN WAVELENGTHS OF SOLAR ENERGY!

THE SAME SOLAR ENERGY THAT DRIVES MY POWERS!

WHEN THE ENERGY IN MY BODY REACHED A CERTAIN LEVEL, MY POWERS WENT OUT OF CONTROL. BY "FINE TUNING" THE RADIATION, LUTHOR COULD CONTROL WHICH POWER WENT HAYWIRE AT WHICH TIME.



THE ROBOT, KLAASH, WAS SURROUNDED BY A SELECTIVE WARPING FIELD WHICH RENDERED IT VISIBLE ONLY IN THE INFRARED.

MY INFRARED VISION WAS ON, COURTESY OF LUTHOR, ALL THE TIME I BATTLED KLAASH.

I DIDN'T NOTICE UNTIL I FLEW UP INTO SPACE AND REALIZED I COULD SEE ALL THE INFRARED STARS!

KLAASH'S VOICE WAS PITCHED SO THAT ONLY I COULD HEAR IT!



AND YOUR TELESCOPIC VISION REVEALED ALL THE DESTRUCTION HAD NEATLY AVOIDED THE LEXCORP BUILDING.

VERY NEAT. AND VERY NASTY.

WELL, LEX? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

MY ATTORNEY WILL SPEAK FOR ME, MAGGIE.

GILLIAN...?



CAPTAIN SAWYER, MY CLIENT HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT THE ROBOTIC UNIT SUPERMAN CALLS "KLAASH" WAS, IN FACT, PART OF A TOP-SECRET EXPERIMENT IN BROADCAST POWER.

AN EXPERIMENT DULY LICENSED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!

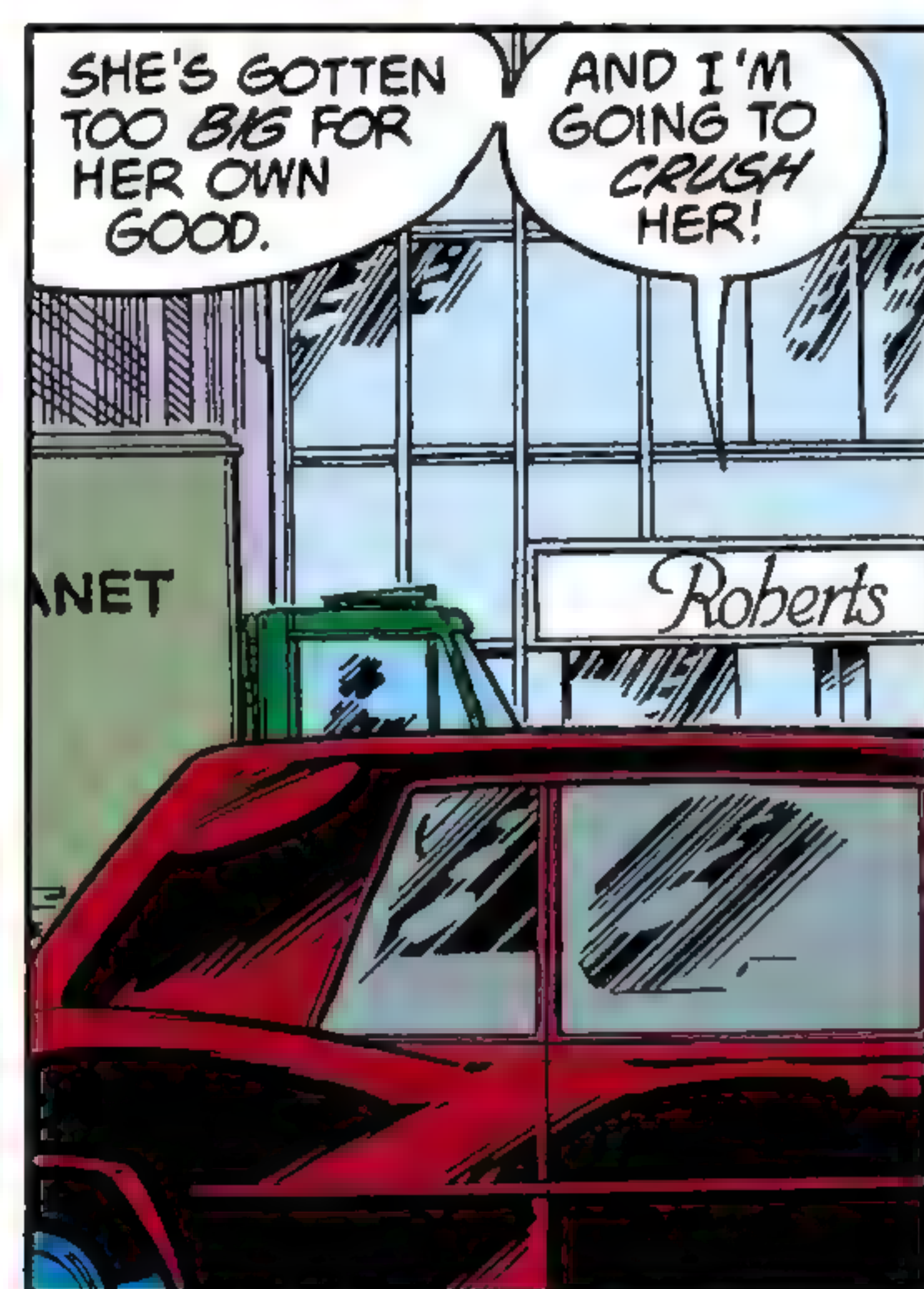
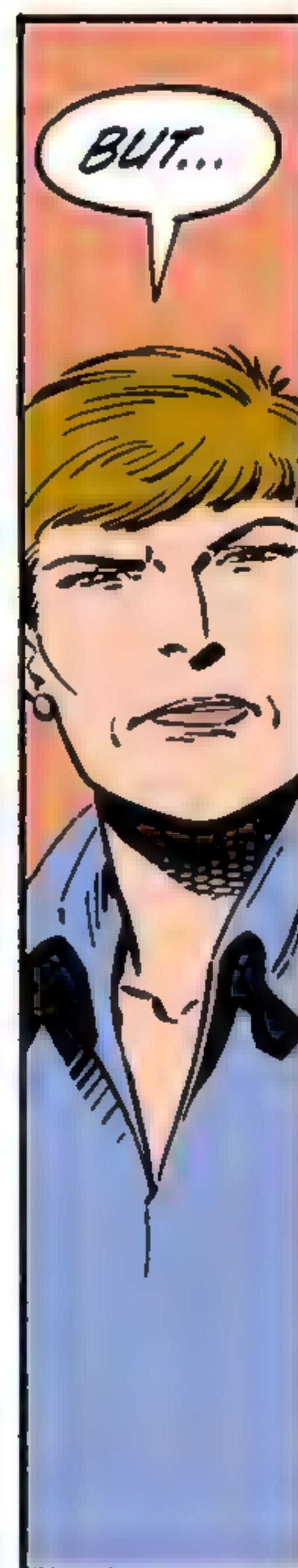


HAD SUPERMAN NOT ATTACKED THE ROBOT-- WHICH WAS SHIELDED FOR SECURITY REASONS-- ITS PERSONAL DEFENSE MECHANISMS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED. HOWEVER...

MR. LUTHOR UNDERSTANDS THAT SUPERMAN IS A MAN OF ACTION, INCLINED TO THINK WITH HIS FISTS.

MR. LUTHOR IS THEREFORE DECLINING TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST SUPERMAN, AND LEXCORP INTERNATIONAL WILL ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DAMAGE THE BATTLE CAUSED.

MR. LUTHOR CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE, SINCE THE ROBOT WAS OF HIS DESIGN.



CONCEPTION

WRITER/CREATOR
JIM STARLIN

ARTISTS

BERNI WRIGHTSON & DAN GREEN

TODD ALFON LETTERS
MICHAEL WRIGHTSON: COLORIST
KAREN BERGER: LETTERS

HE CAN WIN HIS
SUPERMAN
IN THE CITY,
MR. GREEN

HE SAYS HE'S THE NEXT K. R. D. CITY
AND HE'S ANOTHER A. R. D. CITY
A. R. D. CITY
C. R. D. CITY
C. R. D. CITY



THE
CITY

JUST BELL

1.4.11

g Representative Print Advertising Representatives Inc. 365 Lexington Avenue, New

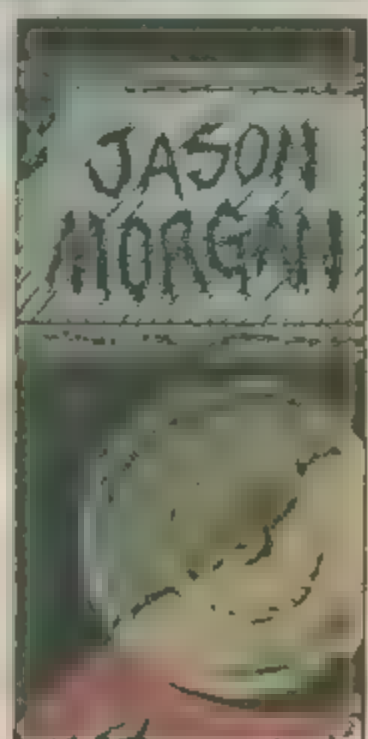
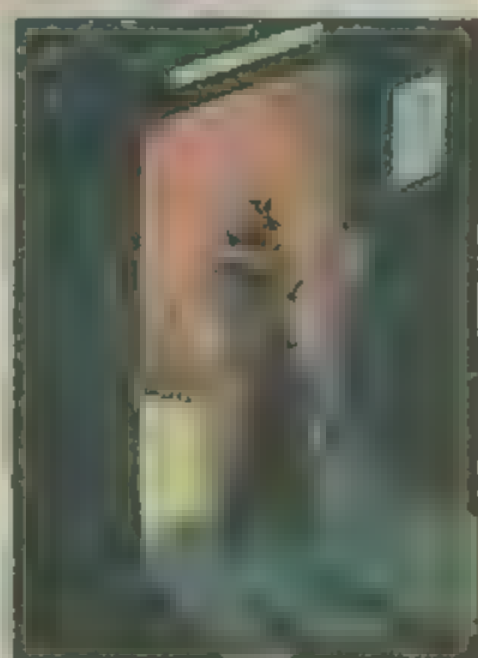
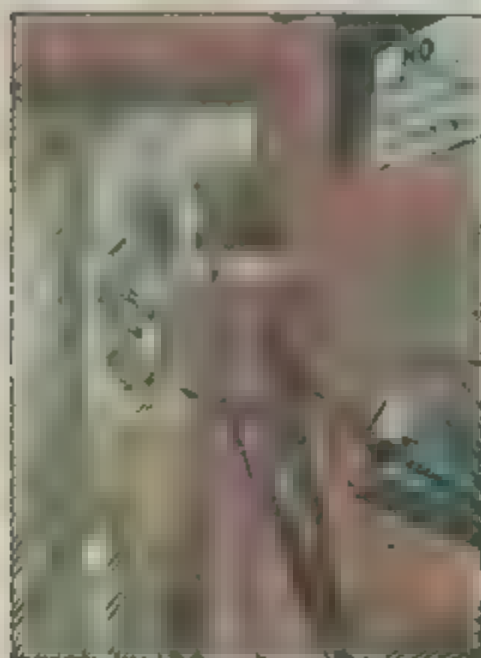
DC Comics Inc.

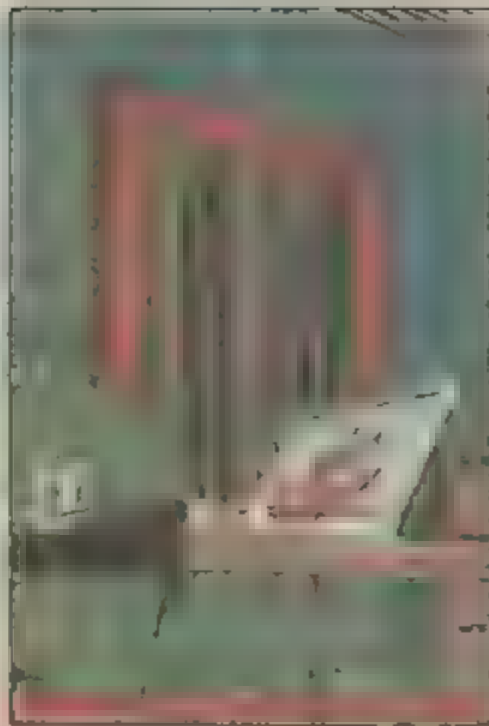
Terri Cunningham, Mgr - Editorial Admin

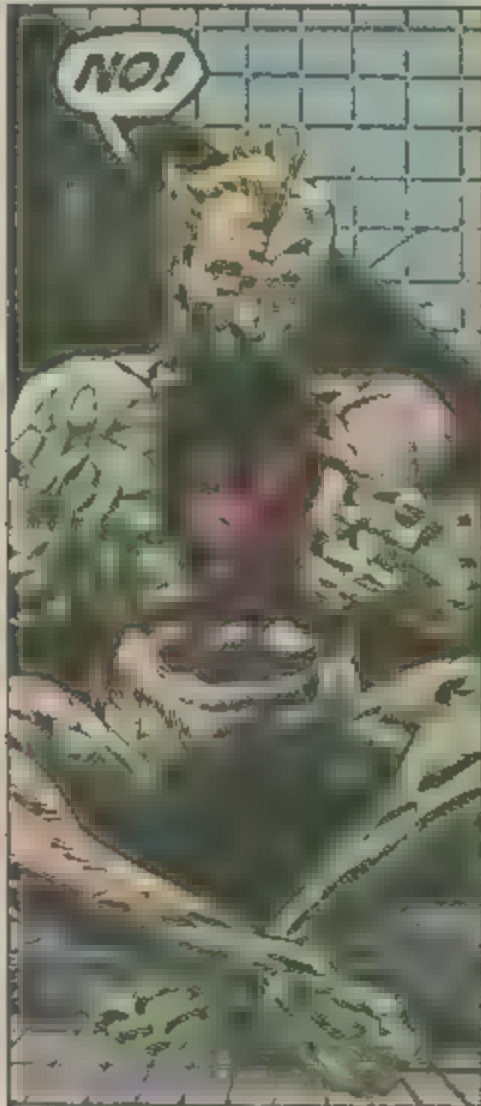
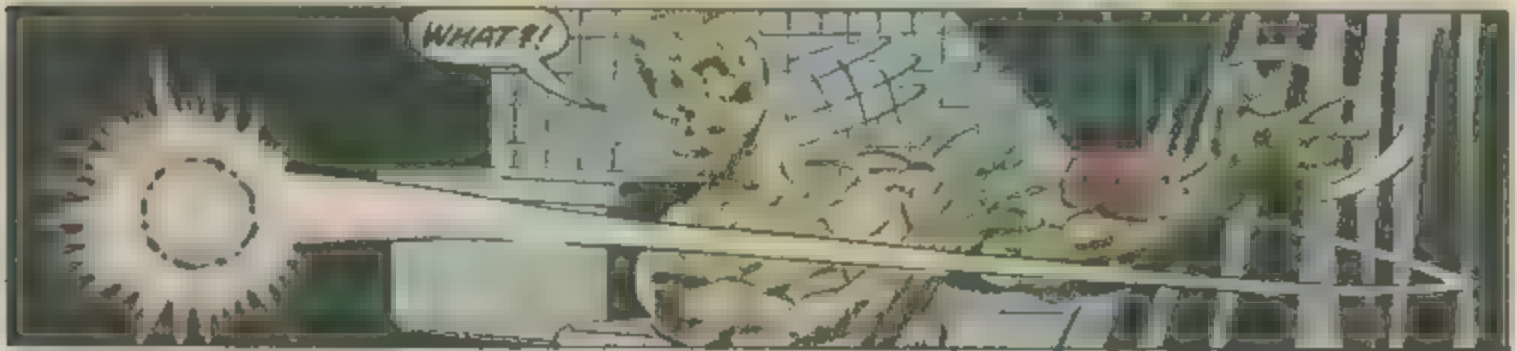
Pat Beatonne, Mgr - Editorial Coord

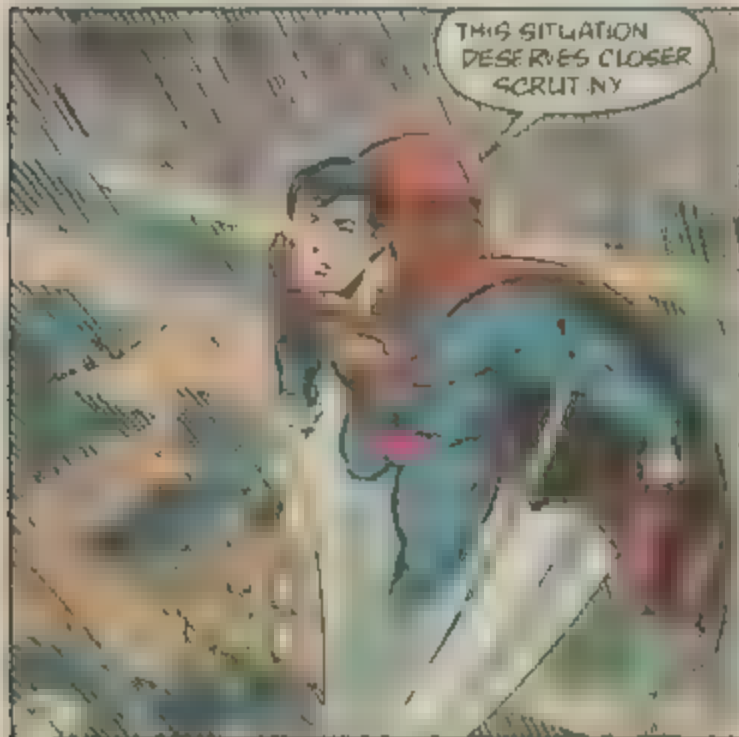
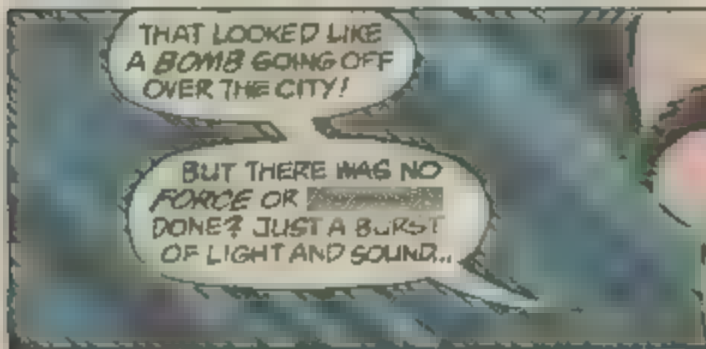
Paul Levitz, Executive Vice President

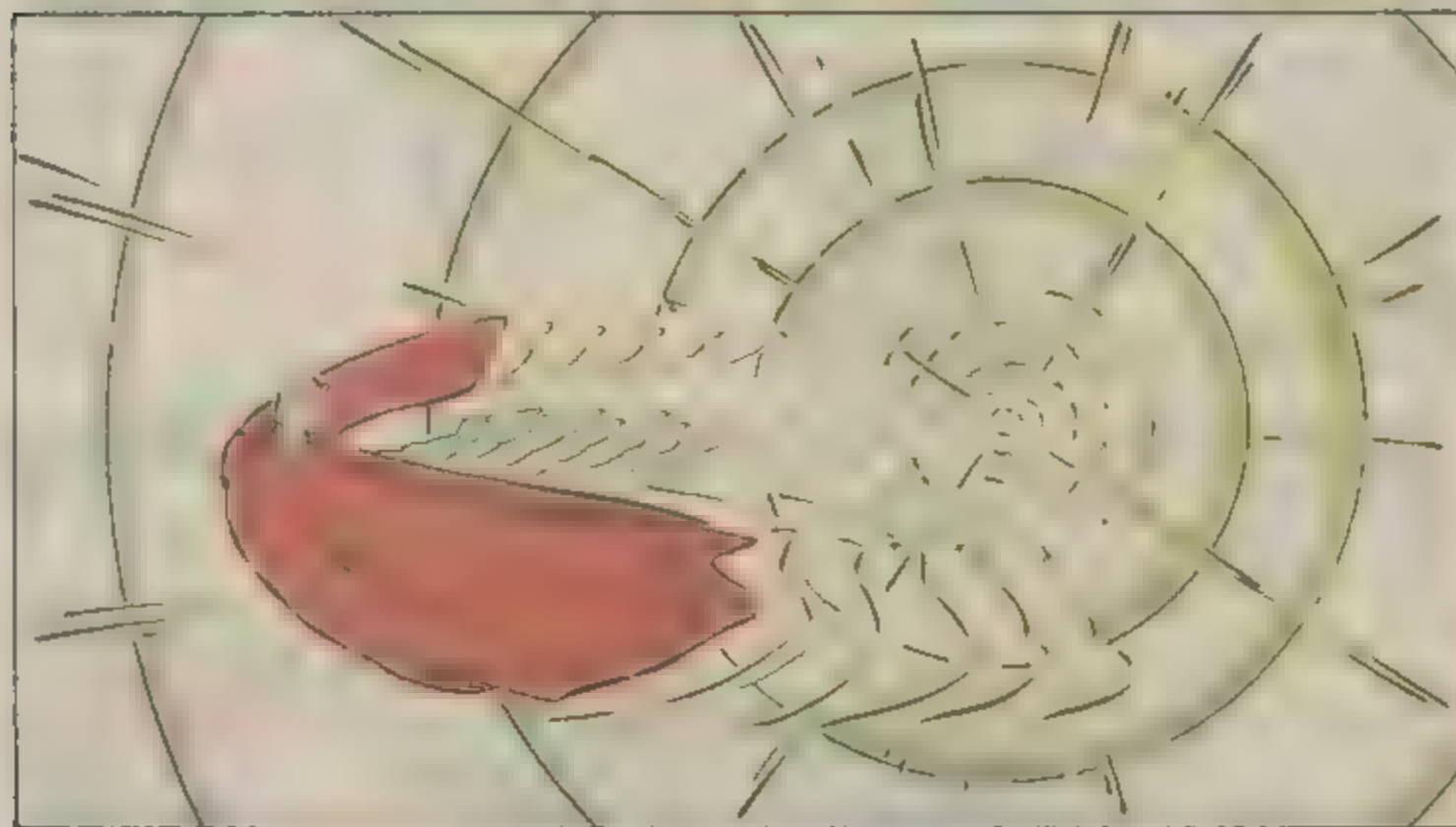
Patrick Caidon, Controller













BETTER GET BACK AND
SEE IF THE EXPLOSION
DID ANY SERIOUS
DAMAGE

I SURE HOPE MY LOUSY
MENT
DIDN'T GET ANYONE HURT



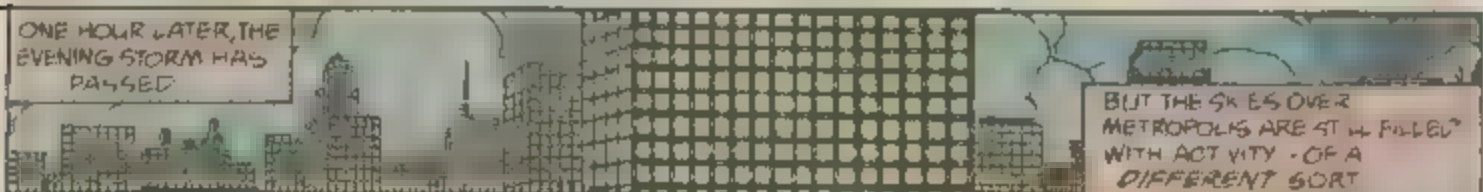
JOHN JONZZ!
CAPTAIN
ATOM!

WE WERE COMING TO INVESTIGATE
THAT FLASH EXPLOSION OVER THE
CITY - AND ARRIVED JUST IN TIME
TO WITNESS YOUR UNSCHEDULED
DEPARTURE



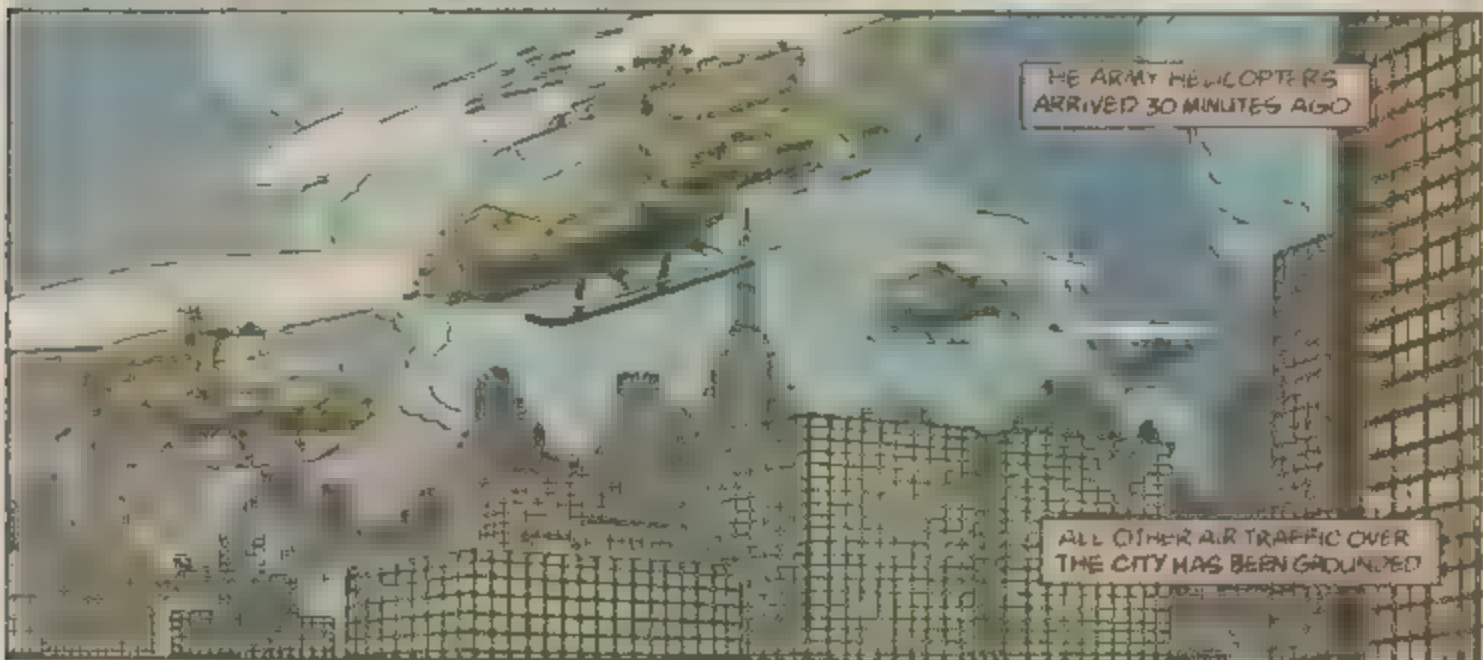
WHAT
HAVE WE HERE
SUPERMAN?

SOMETHING
VERY POWERFUL AND
UNEXPLAINABLE



ONE HOUR LATER, THE
EVENING STORM HAS
PASSED

BUT THE SKIES OVER
METROPOLIS ARE STILL FILLED
WITH ACTIVITY - OF A
DIFFERENT SORT



THE ARMY HELICOPTERS
ARRIVED 30 MINUTES AGO

ALL OTHER AIR TRAFFIC OVER
THE CITY HAS BEEN GROUND



THE CITIZENS OF METROPOLIS
DON'T KNOW IT YET BUT
THEIR TOWN HAS BEEN
PLACED UNDER A
STATE OF MARTIAL
LAW

STREET PEOPLE AND THE
HOMELESS ARE THE
FIRST TO NOTICE THE
STRANGE ACTIVITY IN
THE SKY OVER THEIR
CITY

SOME FOLKS MANAGE TO GET A BETTER VIEW
BY TAKING TO THE ROOFTOPS WHERE THEY
WITNESS THE GATHERING OF A MOST
FORMIDABLE GROUP... OF SUPER-HEROES

I RECOVER ANYTHING
USEFUL YET CAPTAIN
ATOM?

NOT MUCH
YOU KNOW I'M
NO SCIENTIST

WELL YA LOOK
AT DR FATE AND
HIS STUPID LIGHT
SHOW, AS IF
THAT WERE GOING
TO TELL US
ANYTHING

I MIGHT,
GREEN
LANTERN

I WONDER
HOW THE CREW
ON THE BUG'S
DOING?

WE'RE
COLLECTING SOME
VERY INTERESTING
DATA ON THAT THING,
DR YAMADA

IT'LL TAKE
US MONTHS TO
COLLATE IT
BATMAN

JUST FINE
BLUE BEETLE

HOW'S IT
GOING BACK THERE
CANARY?



BUT THE **LITTLE SCIENCE**
I **DO** KNOW TELLS ME THAT
THIS **BABY** SHOULDN'T
EVEN **EXIST**

HOW SO?



WHAT YOU HAVE HERE
IS **PURE ENERGY** WITH
NOTHING TO **CONTAIN** IT
THIS **ENERGY**
CLUSTER SHOULD
DISSIPATE OR
DISPERSE WITHOUT
SOMETHING **MATERIAL**
TO **HOLD** IT IN **PLACE**



DR **FATE?**

THERE IS
SOMETHING OF
THE **MYSTICAL**
ABOUT IT...

.. BUT IT'S
NOT **OCCULT**
ENERGY



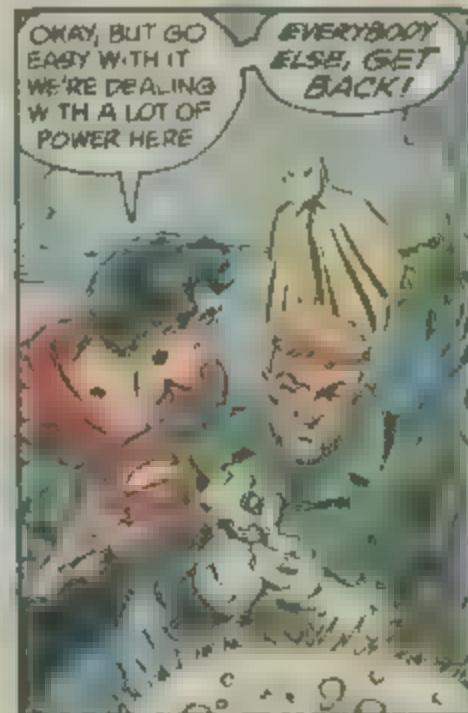
IT DOESN'T
RESPOND TO
ANY OF MY
INCANTATIONS

GREEN LANTERN,
IS YOUR **RING** PICKING
UP ANYTHING?



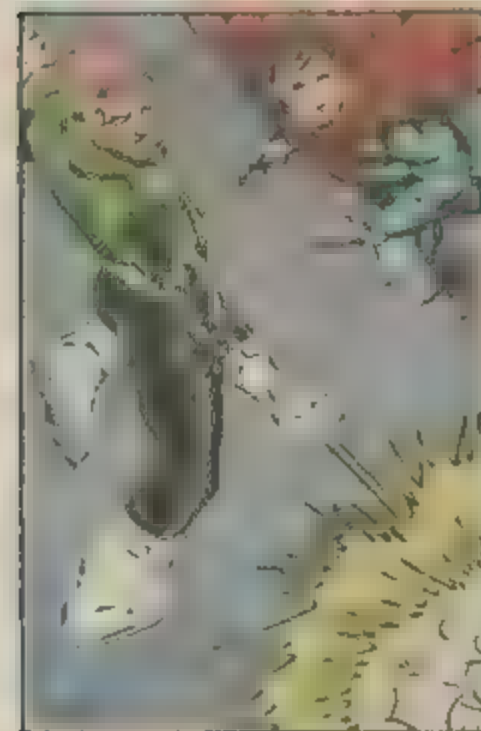
ZIP

I WANT TO TRY A **DEEP**
PROBE THAT MAY BE THE
ONLY WAY WE'LL GET ANY
SOLID **INFO** ON THIS
BABY



OKAY, BUT GO
EASY WITH IT
WE'RE DEALING
WITH A LOT OF
POWER HERE

EVERYBODY
ELSE, GET
BACK!



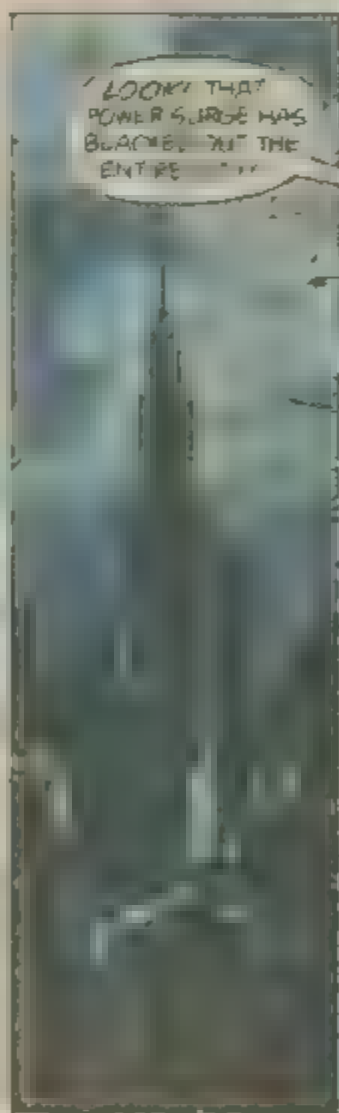
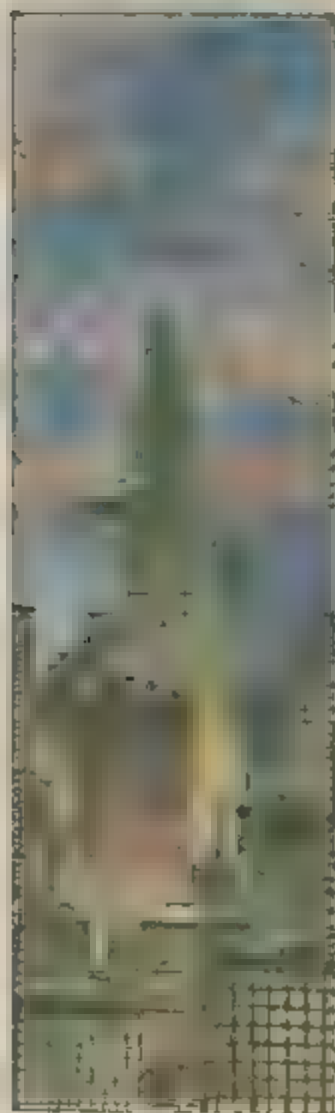
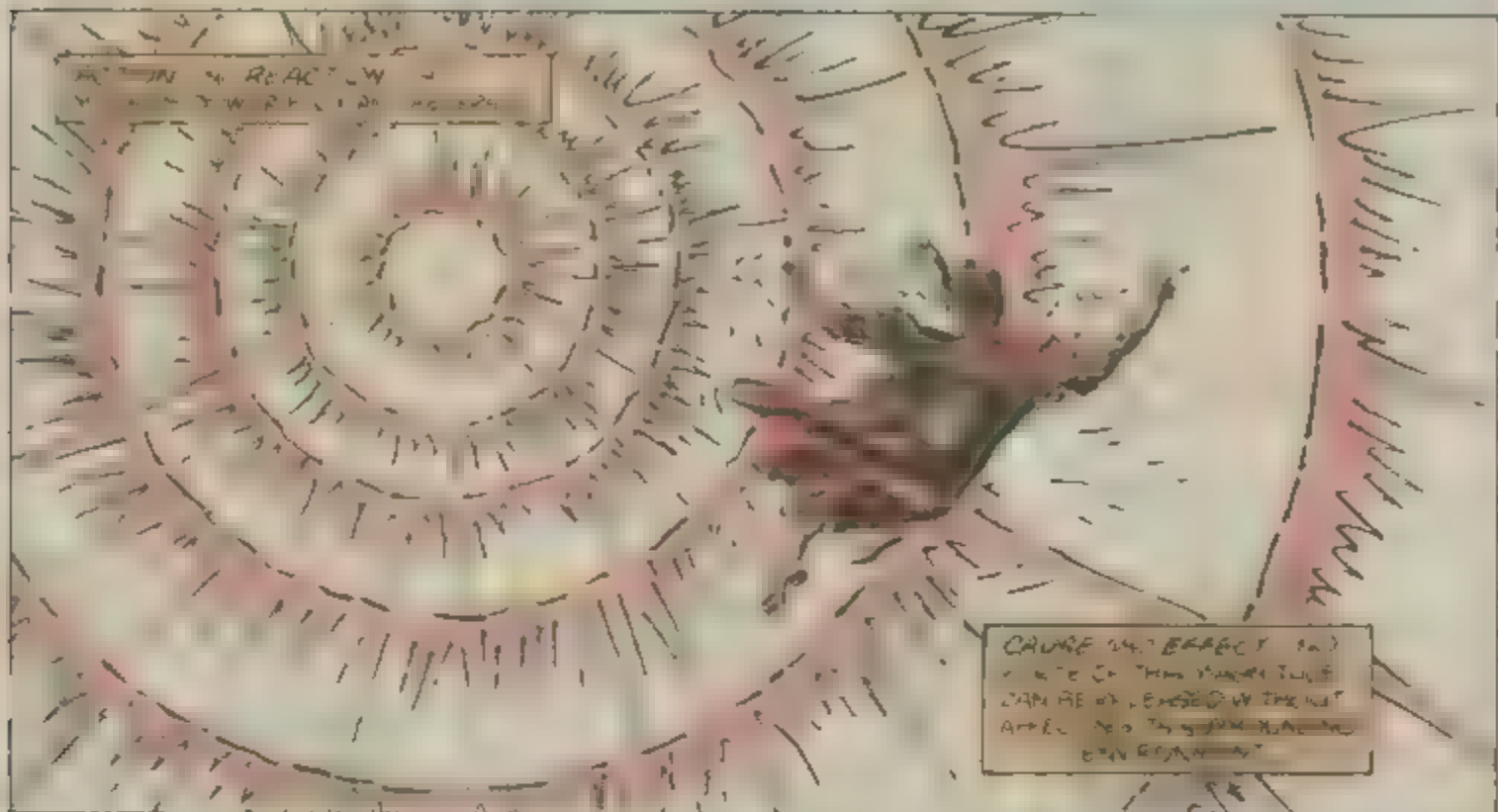
THE THING'S
RESISTING!
THE **PROBE!**

IT'S ALMOST
LIKE IT'S
ALIVE!



I'M GONNA TURN
UP THE **JUICE!**

NO!



THAT THING'S
ENERGIBLAST MUST
HAVE SHORTED OUT THE
BLUE BEETLES ON-
BOARD POWER, AS
WELL

WE ARE
EVIDENTLY DEALING
WITH A MUCH MORE
POWERFUL PHENO-
MENON THAN ANY OF
US SUSPECTED

"SURE LOOKS
THAT WAY I'M NOT
THAT SURE."

WELL
LET'S PULL THE
BUG OVER
HERE

WONDER
HOW THE GENERAL
POPULACE IS HANDLING
THIS AFFAIR?

BIG

EMER-
GENT

INFECTION

SUPERHEROES
DOING

HORRIBLE

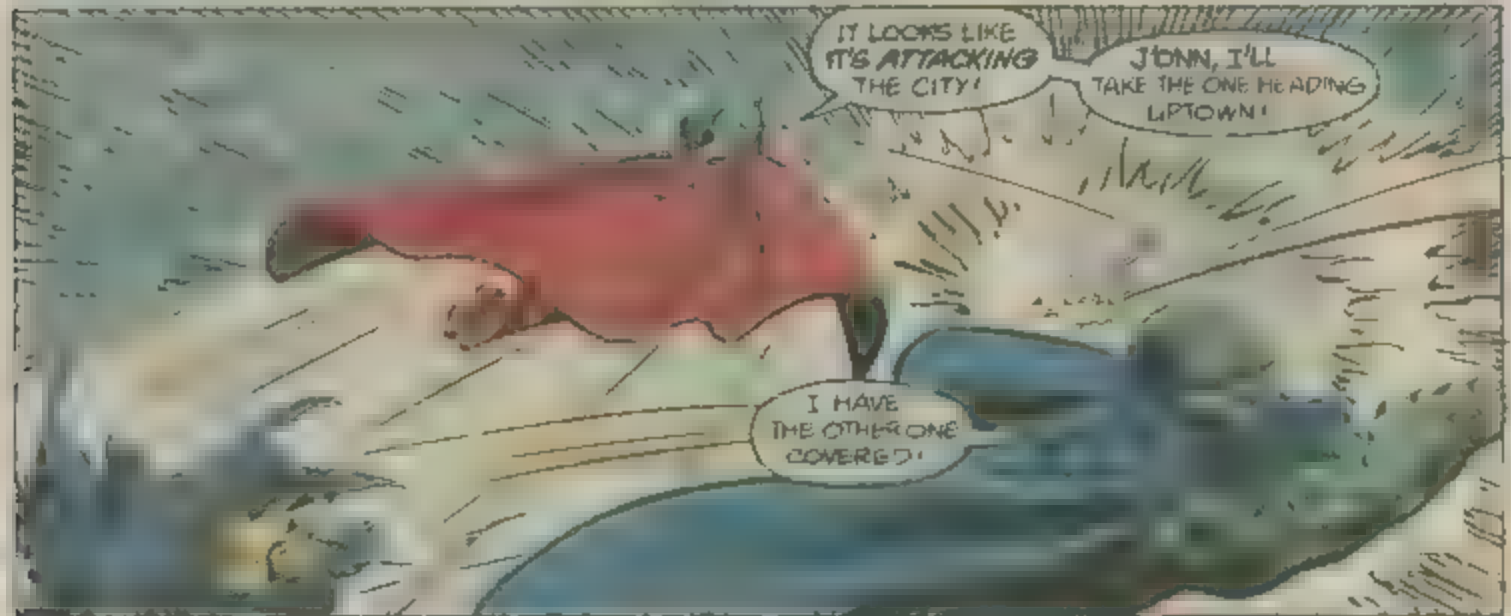
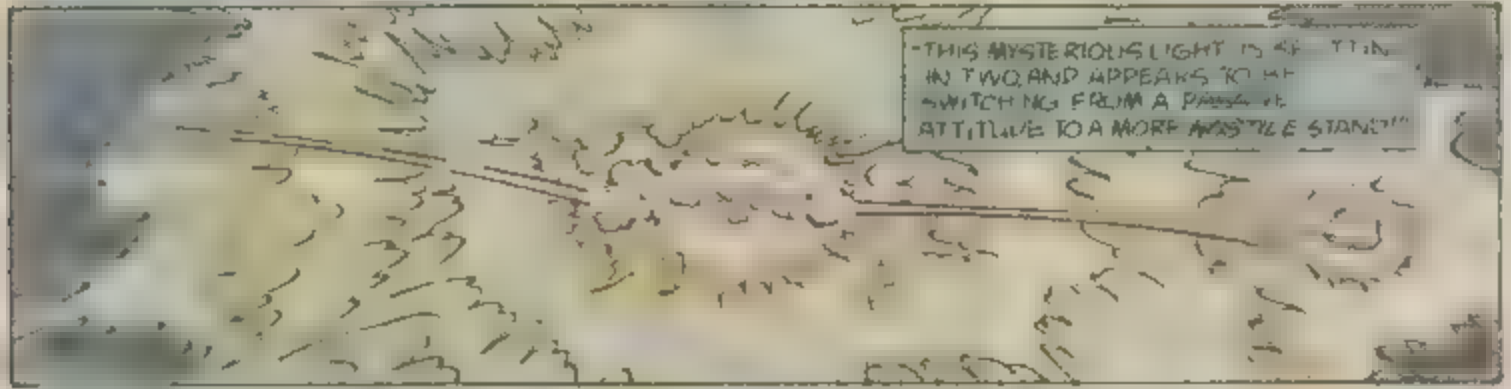
KNOW
THE WORLD?

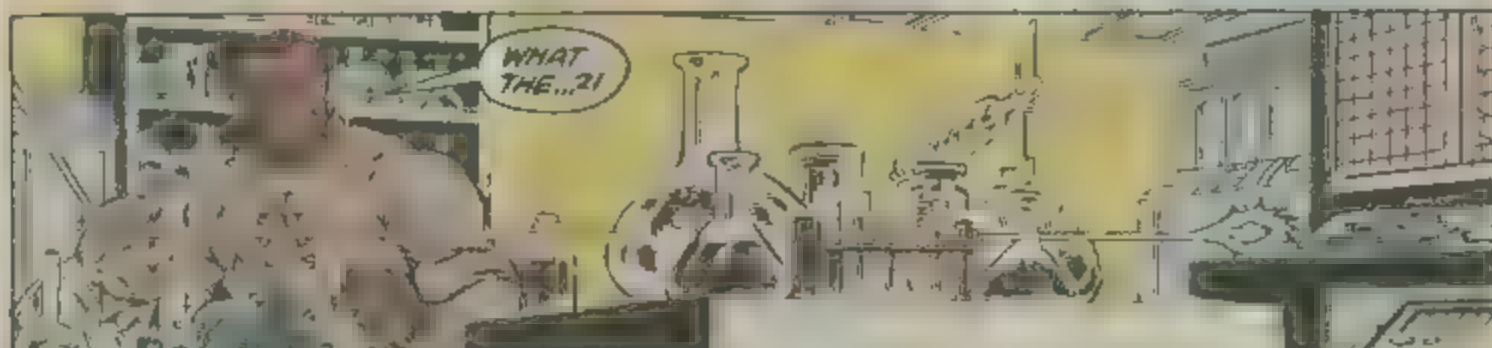
WE MUST DO
SOMETHING
WAS IT THE
SITUATION
GETTING OUT
OF HERE?

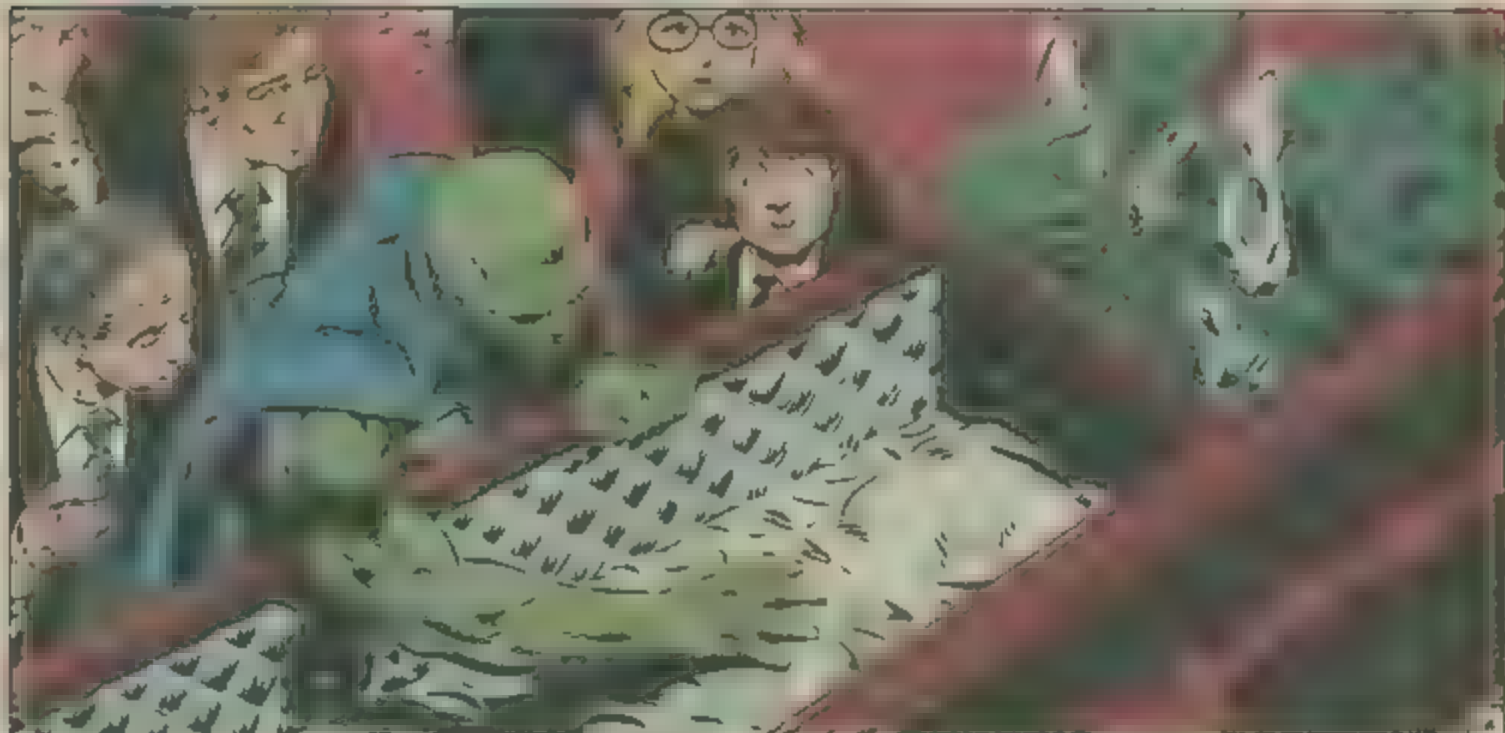
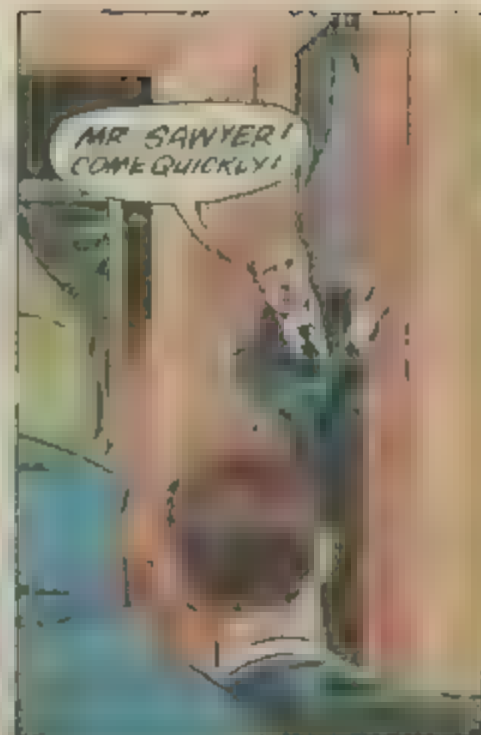
WHAT
WOULD YOU
SUGGEST?

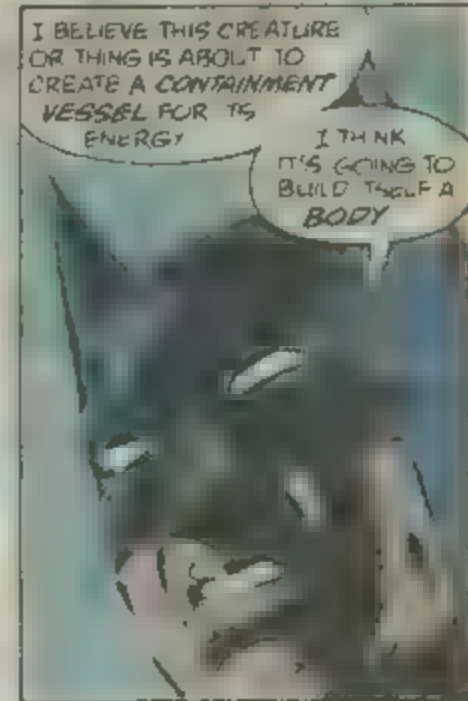
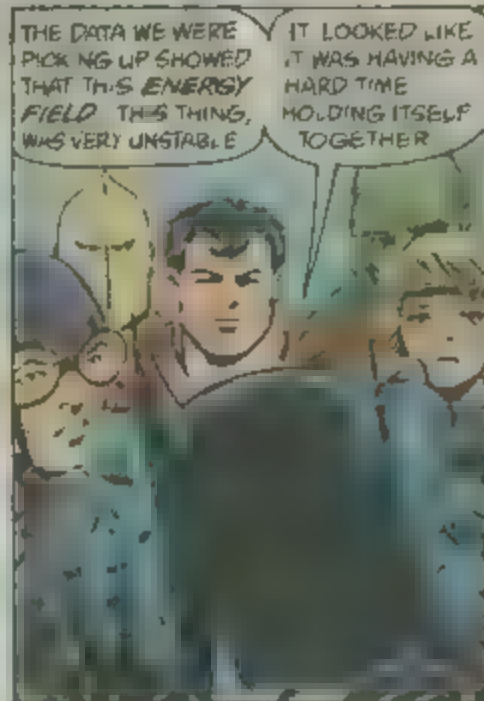
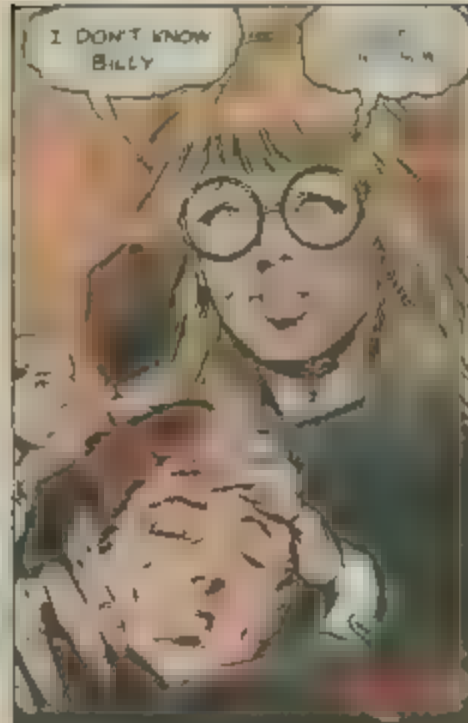
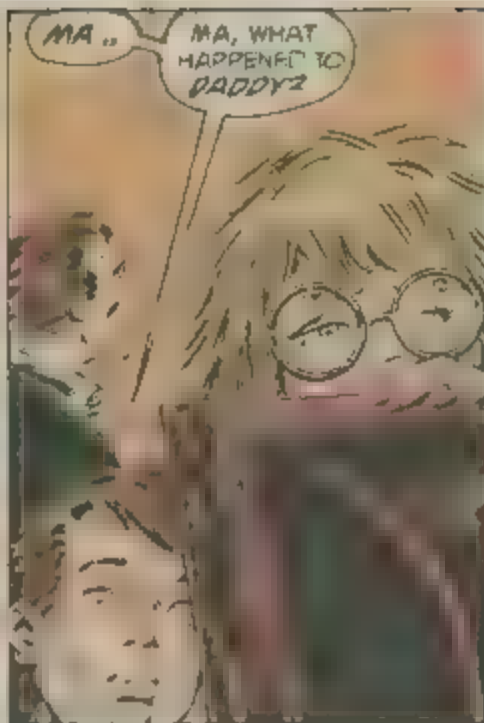
EVERY TIME WE MESS
WITH THAT SLICKER SOME
ONE GETS IMPRISONED

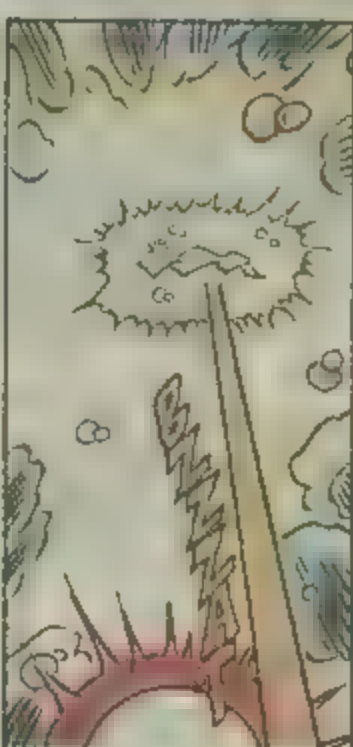
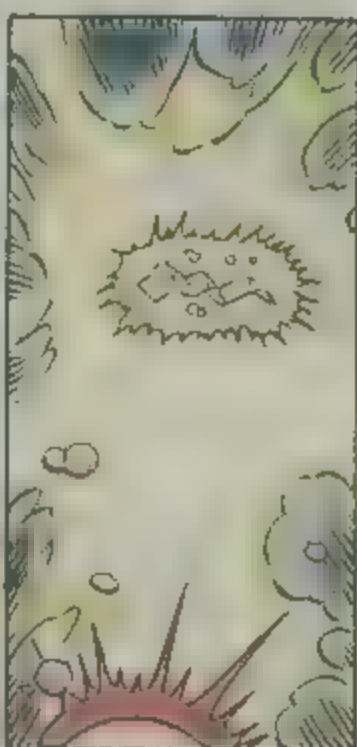
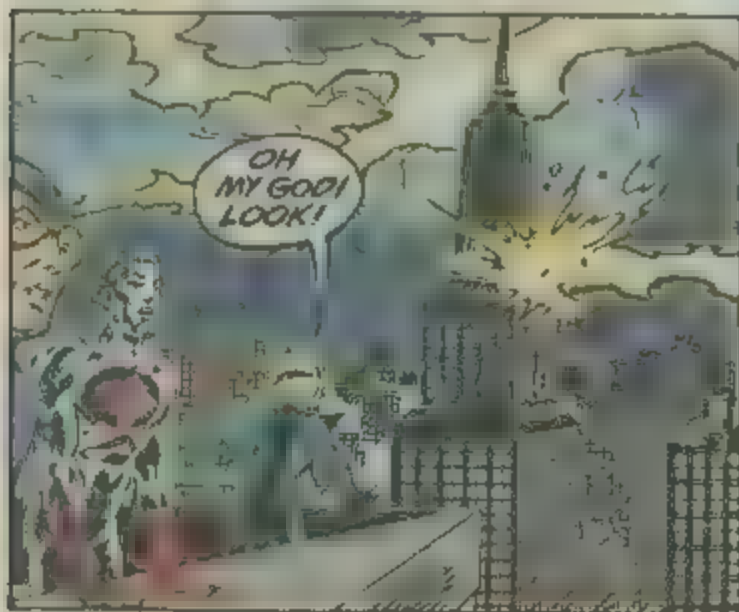
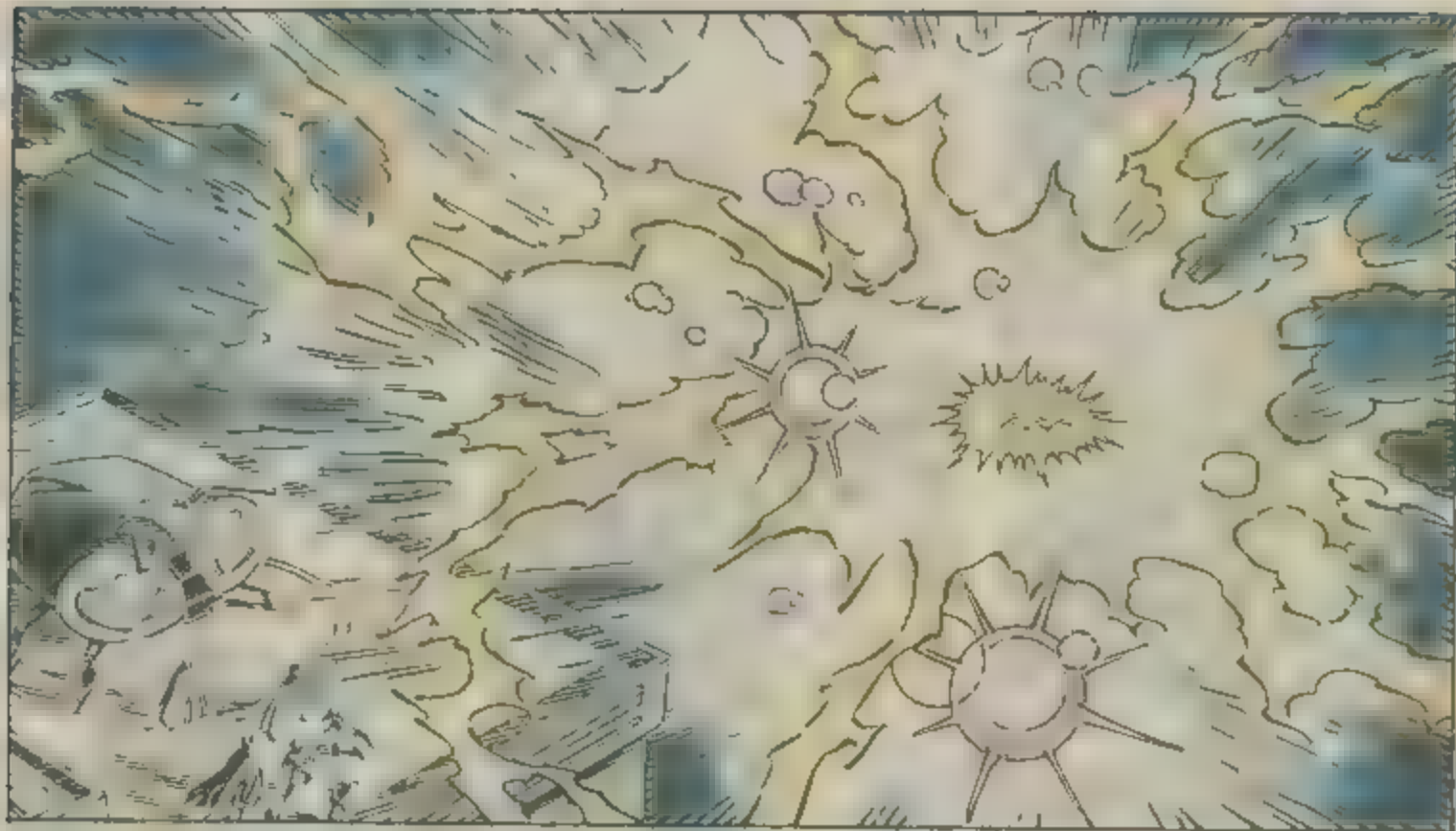
LOO

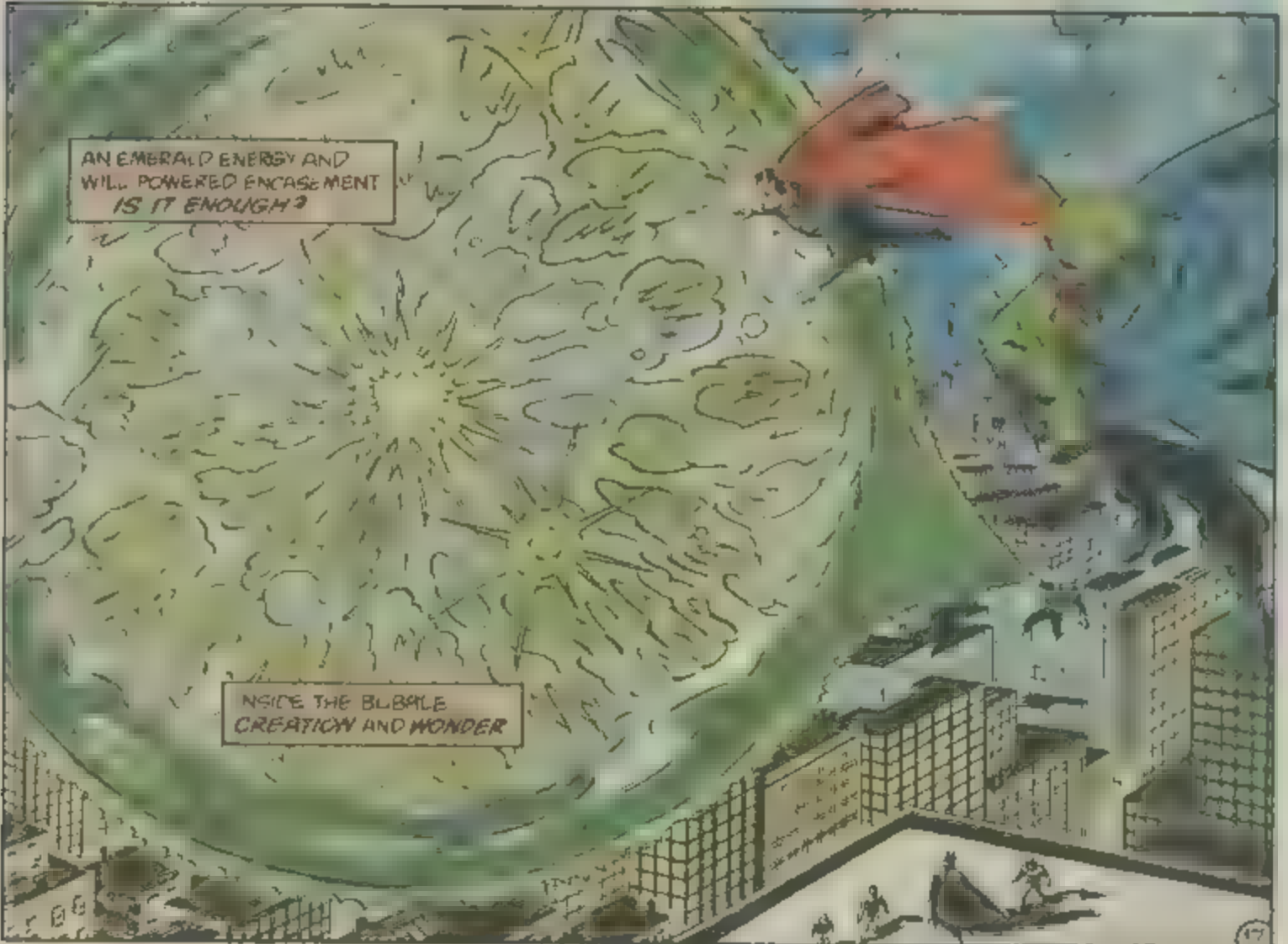
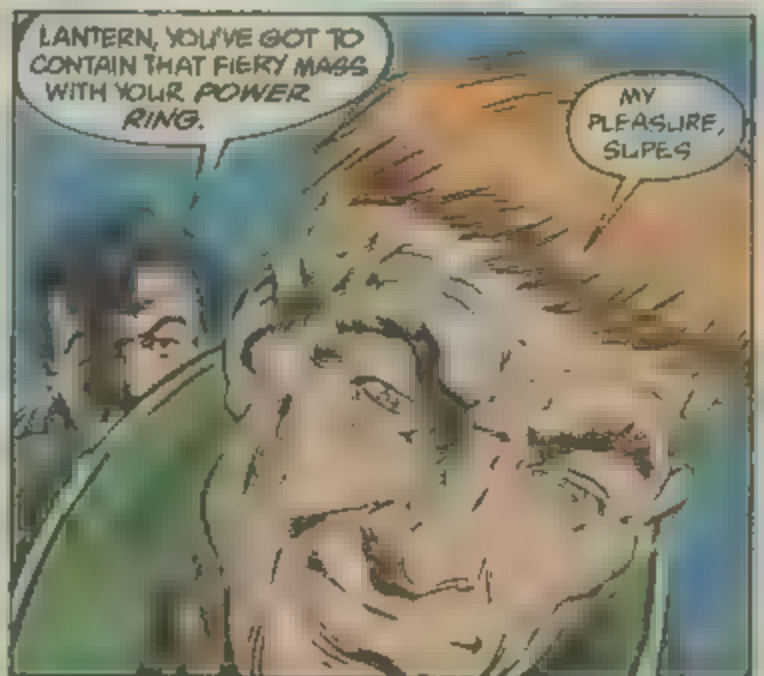


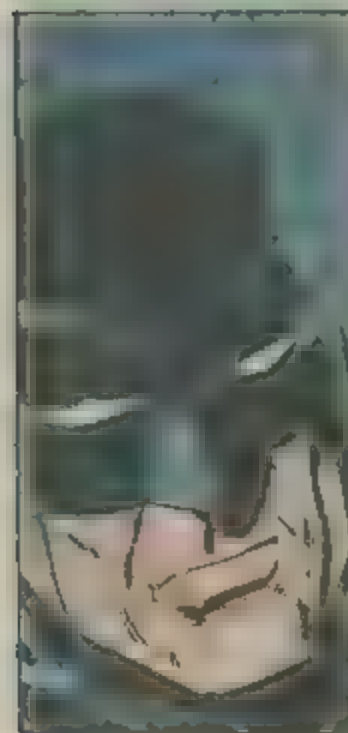
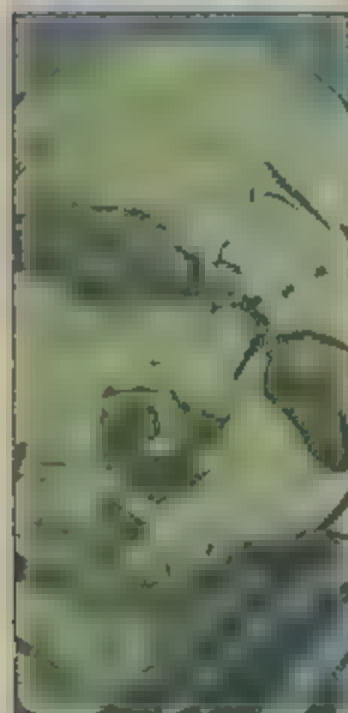
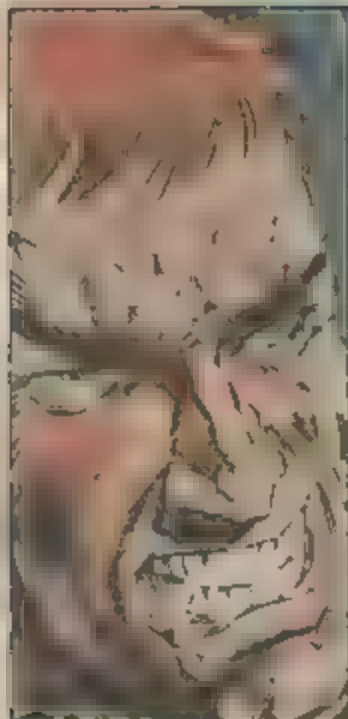


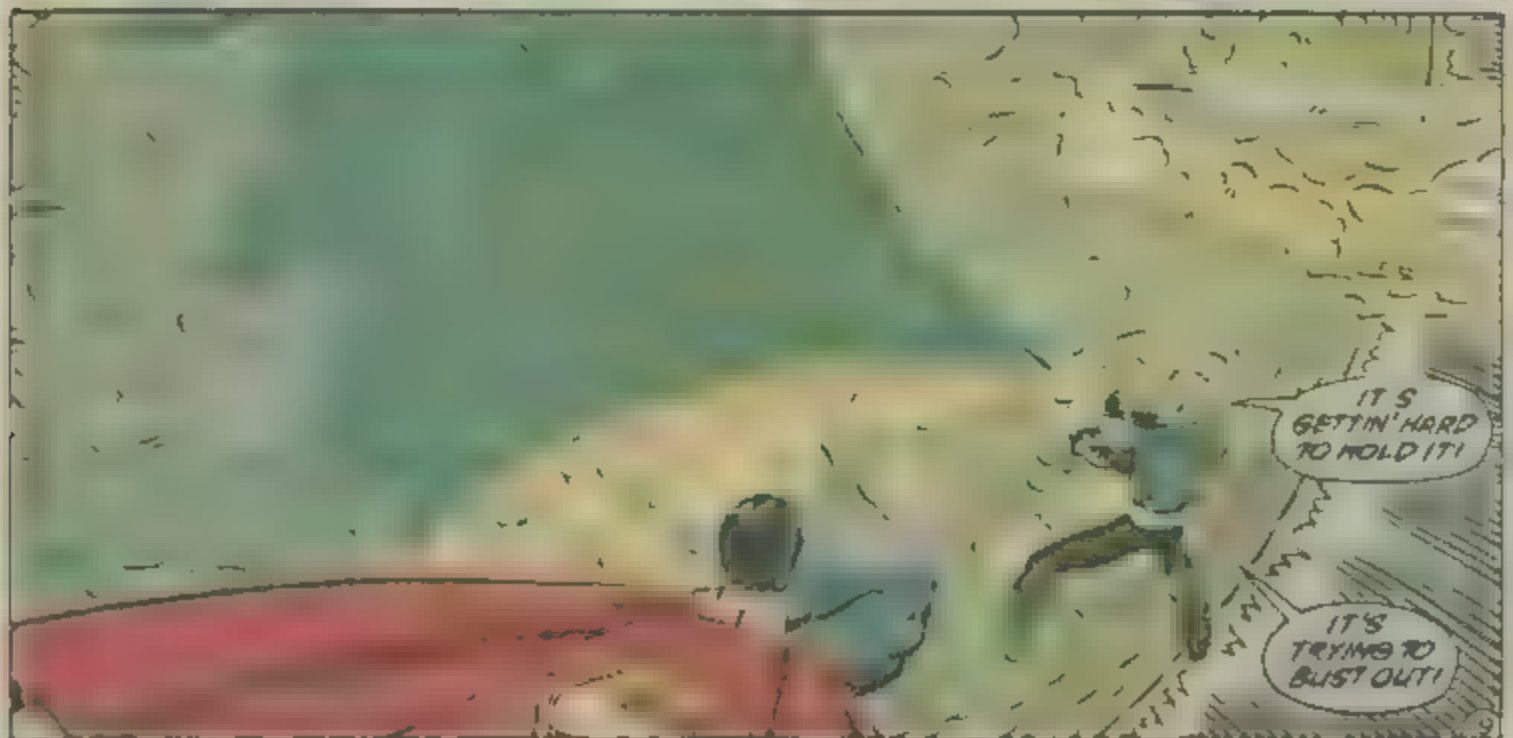




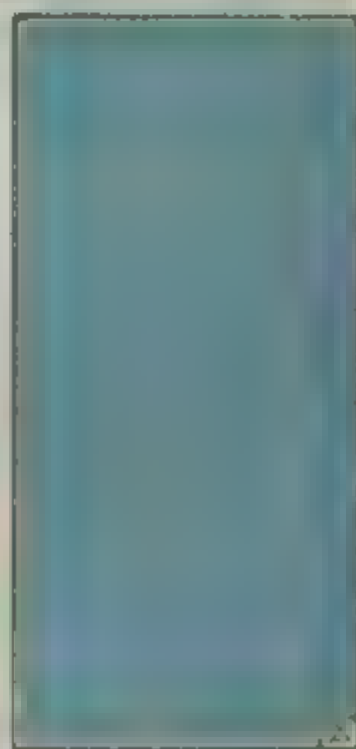






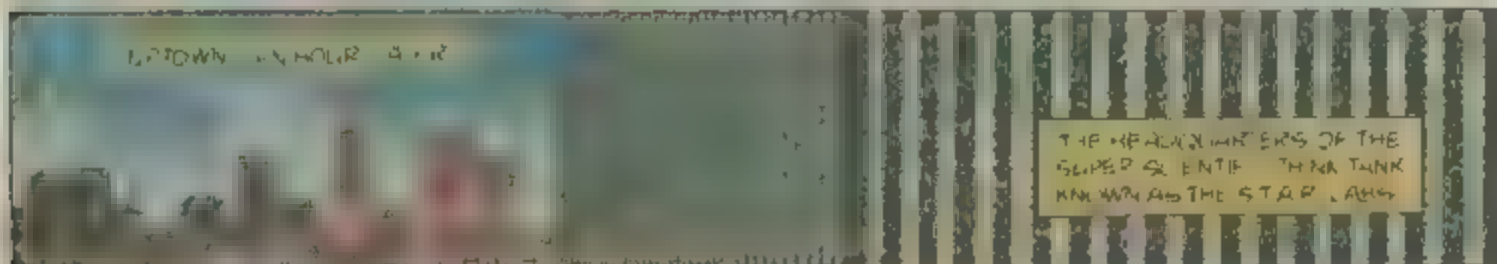








COMFORTING
OBLIVION



DOWN TOWN 4:42

THE HEALTHCAREERS OF THE
GLIMPSE ENTIRE THIN TANK
KNOW AS THE STAR ARMY



UNBELIEVABLE!
CLEAR FLOOD NO
RED BLOOD CELLS!



WHAT HAVE
YOU GOT THE FAR
DOCTOR?

A PATIENT
(WHO SHOULDN'T
BE A VET BUT
IS)



WE WERE
LUCKY THAT YOU
COULD ARRANGE FOR
US TO USE THESE
FACILITIES ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE, GENERAL
WESTERLY

NO TROUBLE
THE **PRESIDENT**
WANTS TO KNOW
WHAT THIS CREATURE
S ALL ABOUT

HIS BREATHING
AND HEARTBEAT ARE
HIGHLY IRREGULAR
HIS TEMPERATURE
IS OVER 115
DEGREES

I'D LIKE TO
KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON
INSIDE THIS
MAN

A X-RAY
VIS ON CAN
DO THAT

GOOD IDEA. IT'LL
SAVE US HAVING
TO SET UP A LOT
OF EQUIPMENT

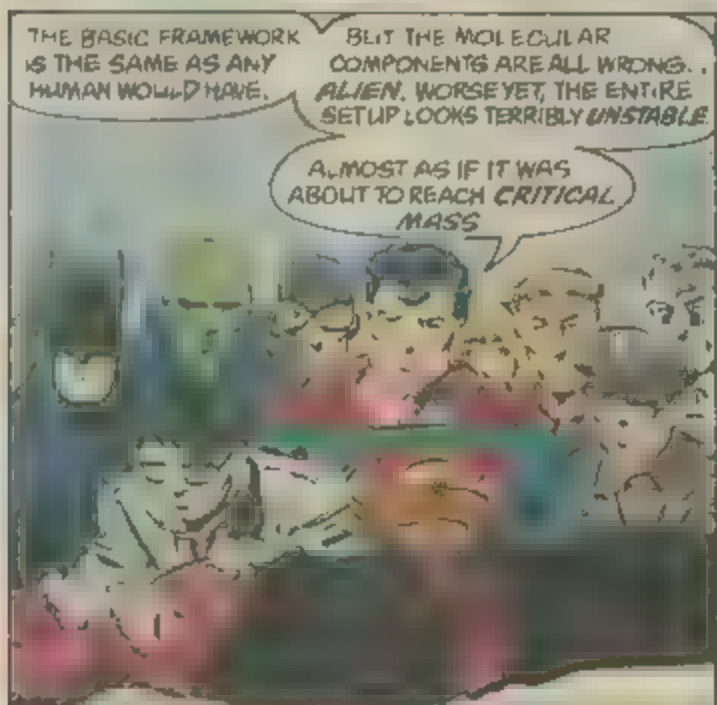
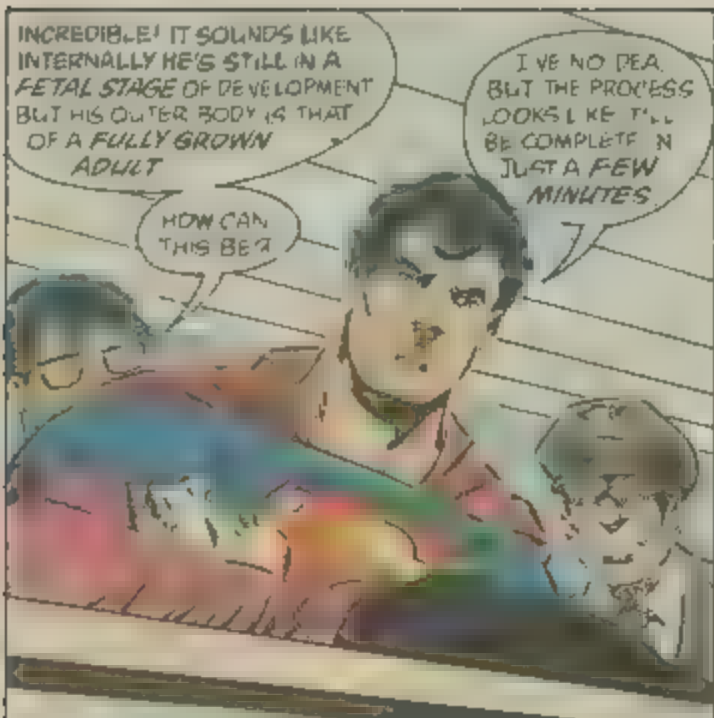
AMAZING!

WHAT DO
YOU SEE?

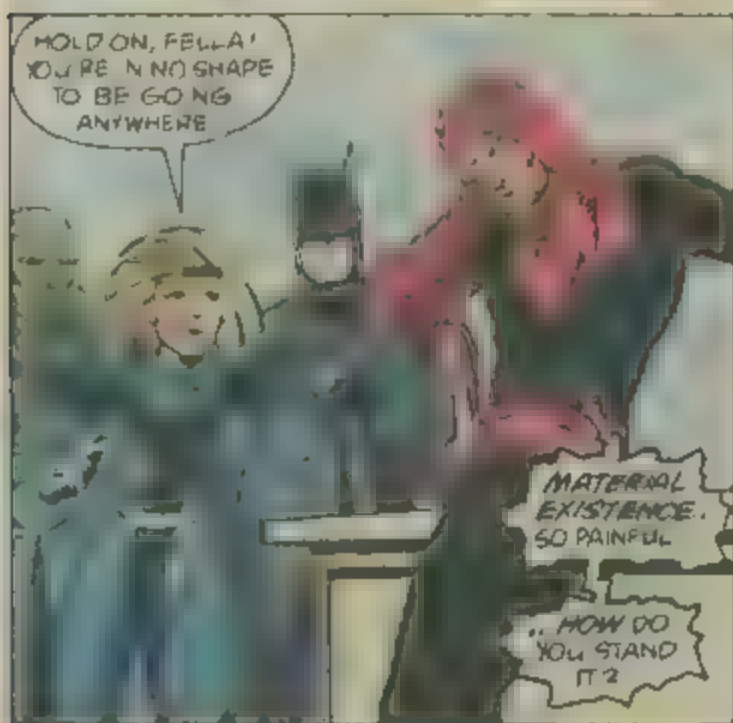
MANY **STRANGE**
AND **FRIGHTENING**
THINGS.

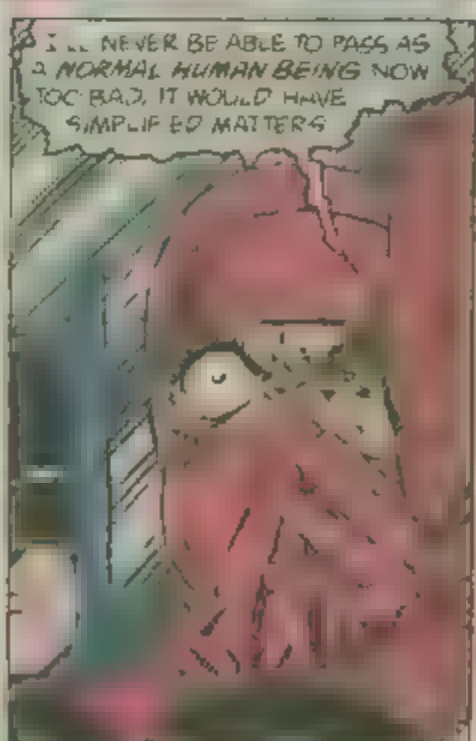
NONE OF HIS **MAJOR**
ORGANS ARE FULLY
FORMED YET!

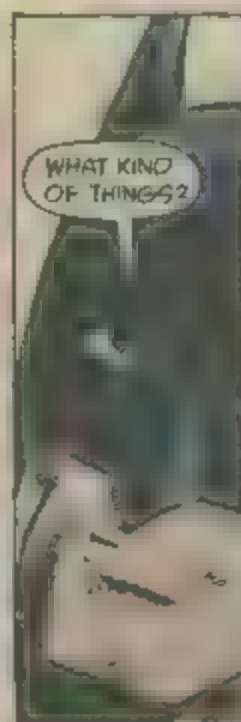
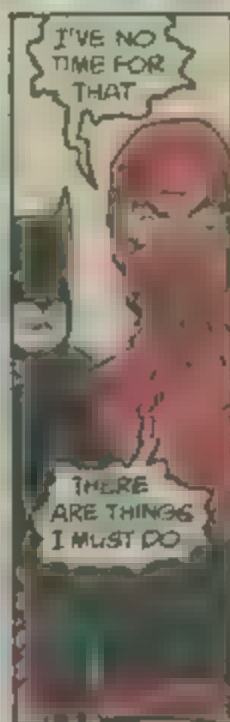
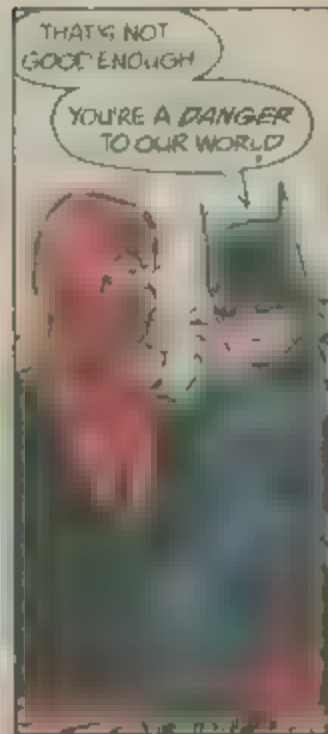
BUT SOME **UNSEEN**
HAND SEEMS TO BE
SCULPTING THEM INTO
THEIR PROPER STATE,
EVEN AS WE SPEAK

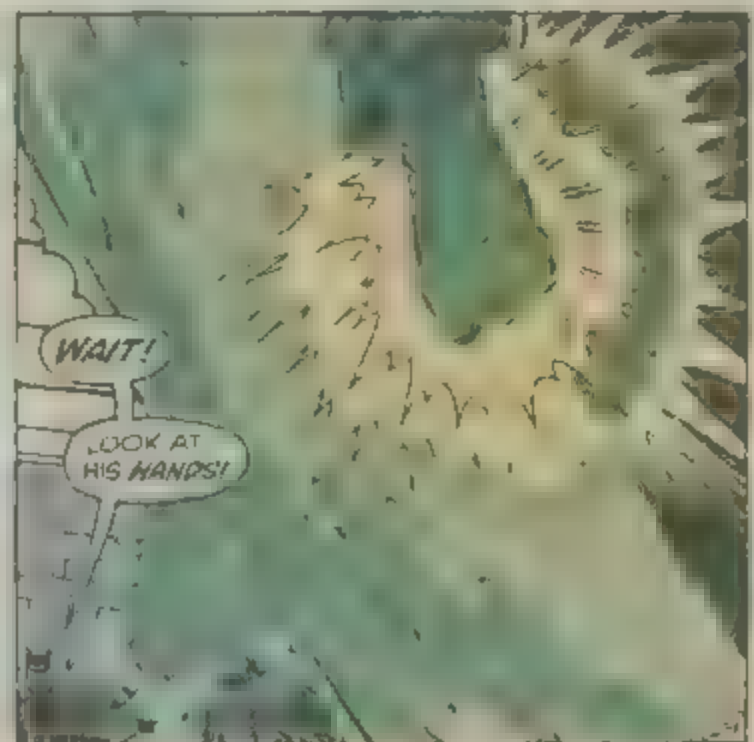
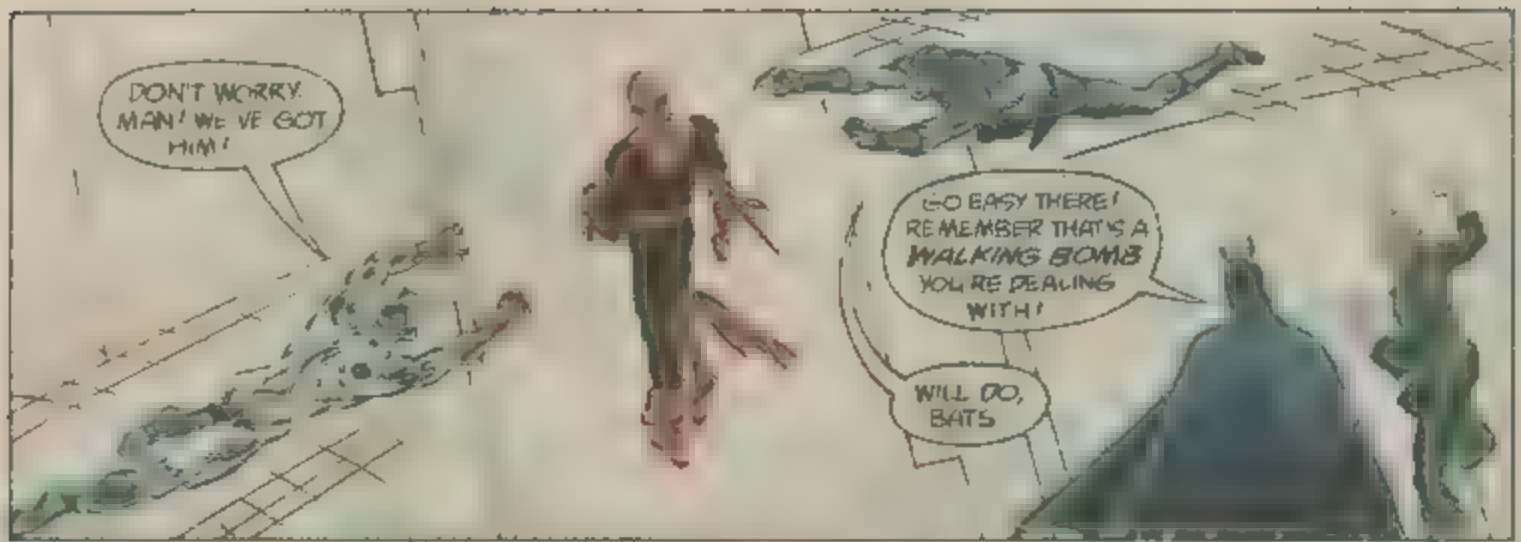














GETTIN' INTERFERENCE
AND FEEDBACK THROUGH
THE RING!



SOMETHIN' CHANGIN'
THE RING'S ENERGY - I CAN
FEEL EVERYTHIN' SHORT-
ING OUT!

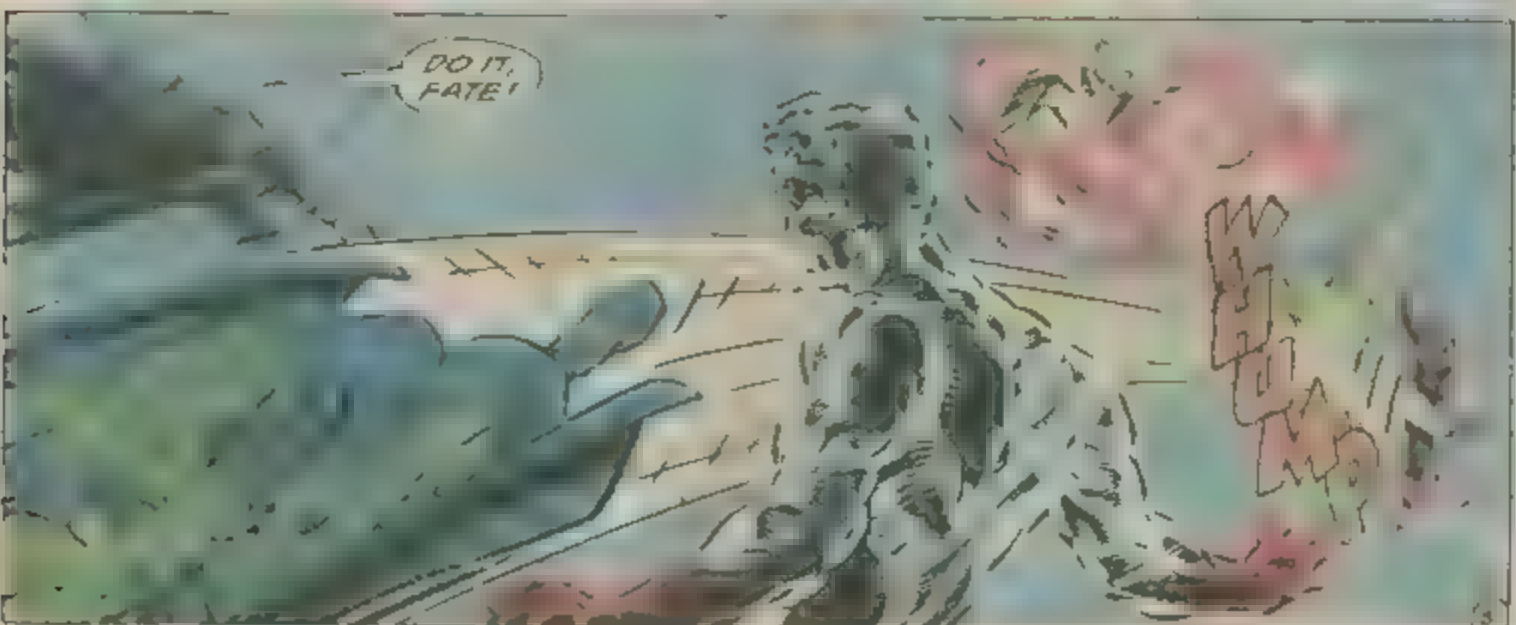
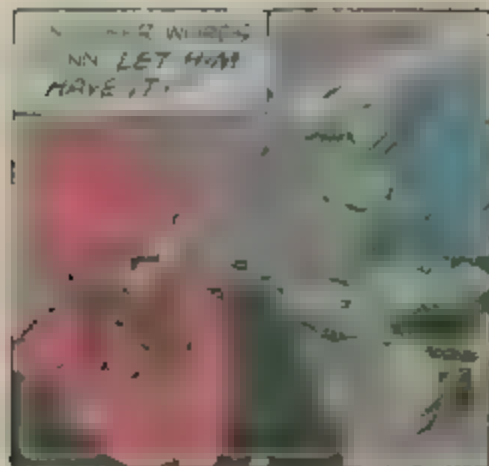


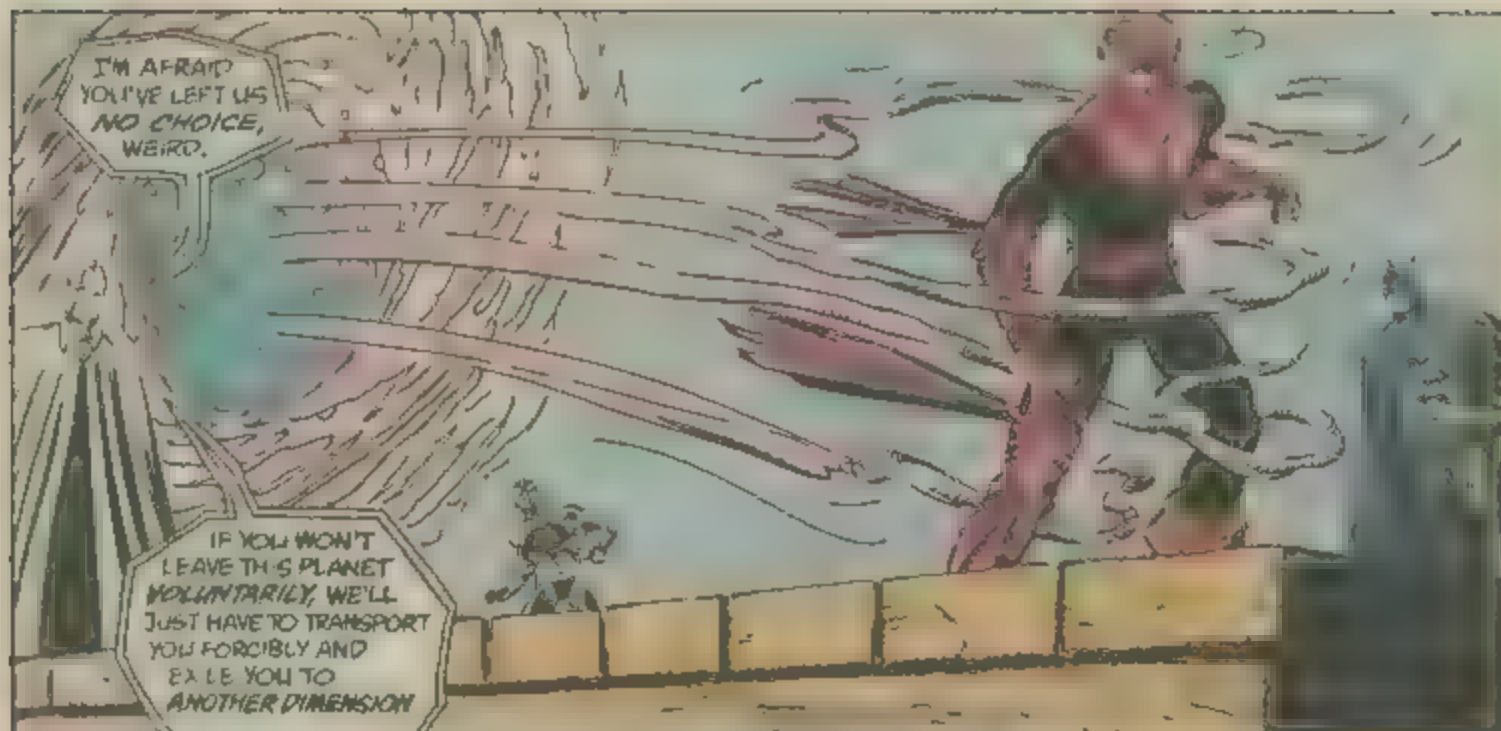
NOW WILL
THE RING PASS
THE PRESSURE?



JUDGING FROM WHAT I'VE
SEEN I DON'T THINK WE HAVE
A MORTAL PHYSICAL
FORCE GETTING OFF THIS
CREATURE'S UNSTABLE
MOLECULAR STRUCTURE

ANY MORE THAN
I'D WORRY ABOUT
SOMEONE POUNDING
ON THE OUTER CONTAIN-
MENT WALL OF A
NUCLEAR REACTOR
WITH A HAMMER





I'M AFRAID
YOU'VE LEFT US
NO CHOICE,
WEIRD.

IF YOU WON'T
LEAVE THIS PLANET
VOLUNTARILY, WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO TRANSPORT
YOU FORCIBLY AND
EXILE YOU TO
ANOTHER DIMENSION



"YOU'RE JUST TOO
DANGEROUS TO HAVE
RUNNING AROUND
LOOSE"



I'M SORRY
IT HAD TO END
LIKE THIS



I TOO
AM SORRY



SORRY YOU
PEOPLE DID NOT
POSSESS THE
SENSE NOT TO
INTERFERE...



...WITH SOMETHING
YOU COULD NOT
UNDERSTAND OR
HELP!

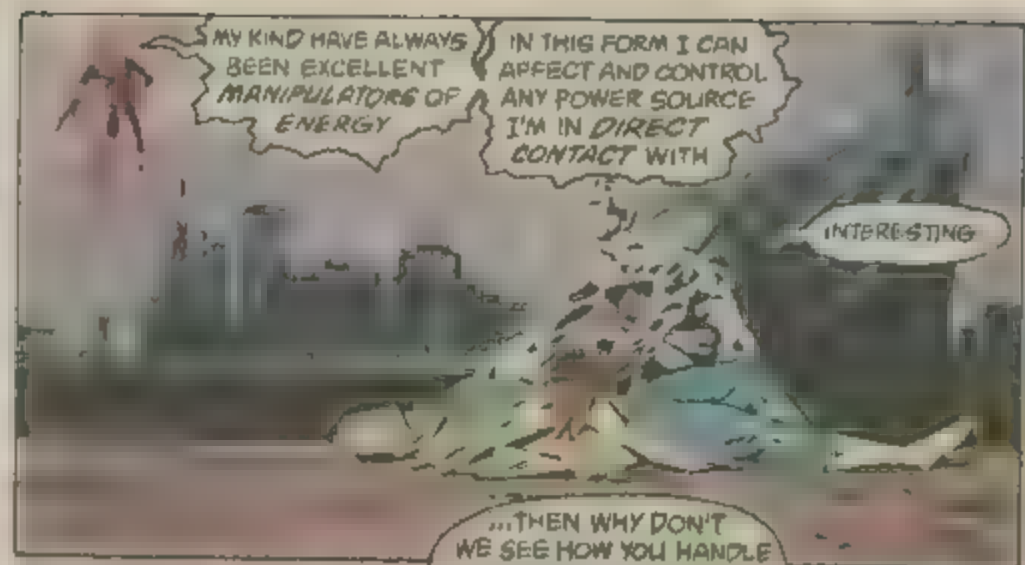




NOW DO YOU
SEE THE FUTILITY
OF TRYING TO
RESTRAIN ME?

HE LOOK
DR FATE
OUT!

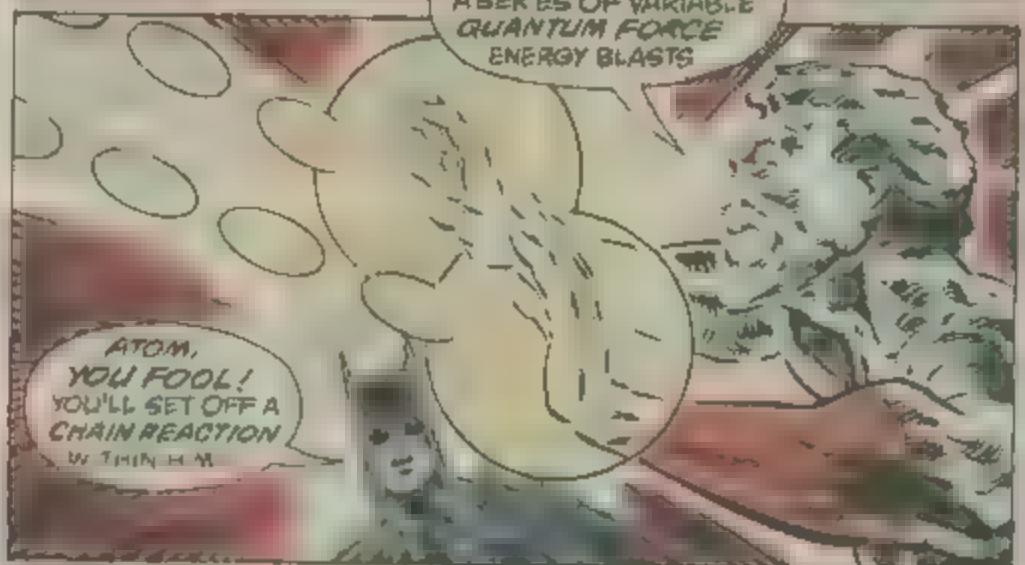
HOW'D
HE MANAGE
THAT?



MY KIND HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN EXCELLENT
MANIPULATORS OF
ENERGY

IN THIS FORM I CAN
AFFECT AND CONTROL
ANY POWER SOURCE
I'M IN DIRECT
CONTACT WITH

INTERESTING



...THEN WHY DON'T
WE SEE HOW YOU HANDLE
A SERIES OF VARIABLE
QUANTUM FORCE
ENERGY BLASTS

ATOM,
YOU FOOL!
YOU'LL SET OFF A
CHAIN REACTION
W/IN H.M.



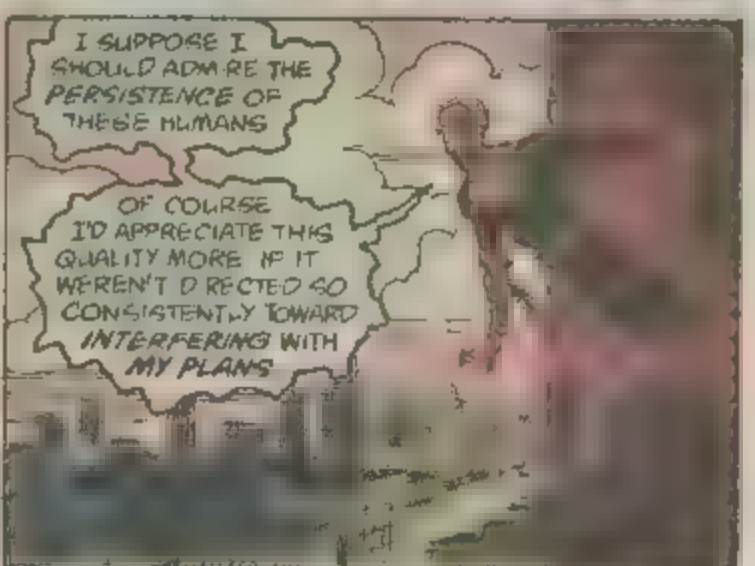
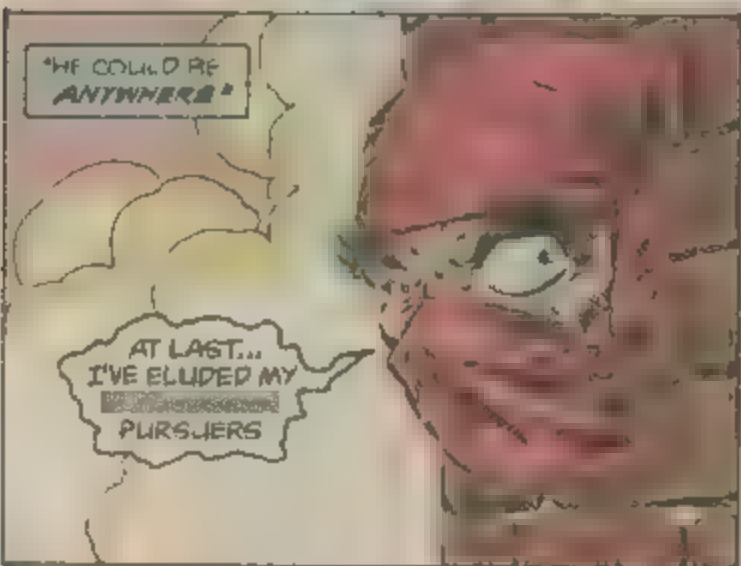
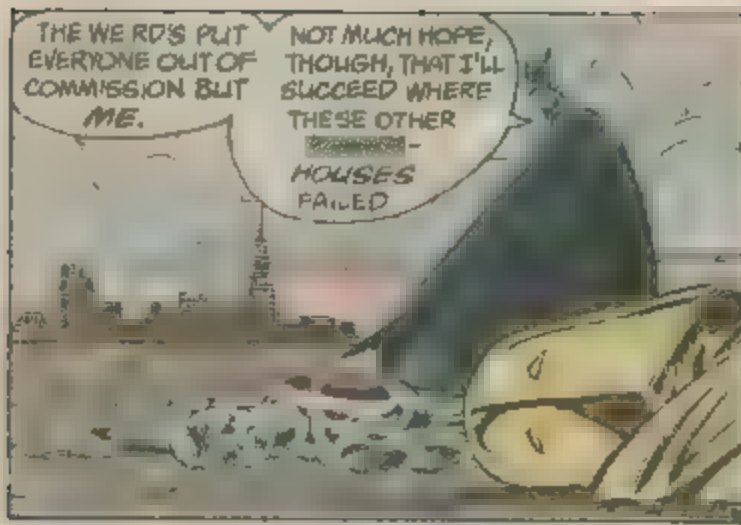
"NOT A SINGLE LOW
YIELD BLAST WON'T
STRIKE H.M.
DIRECTLY

"I'M ALSO VARYING
THE WAVELENGTH
OF THESE - BLASTS
SO THAT HE CAN'T
ADJUST TO THEM"



I'D T HES
DROPPING





THIS IS THE
PLACE I REMEMBER
TO BE CLEAR

I FEARE, THE
CHANGE OVER MIGHT
HAVE AFFECTED MY
RECOLLECTIONS
MEMORIES

JASON
MORGAN

THIS IS THE DWELLING PLACE OF MY
ENEMY, THE JASON A MUCH GREATER
THREAT TO THIS WORLD THAN MY
SOMEWHAT UNSTABLE MOLECULAR
STRUCTURE

THE JASON
WOULD HAVE THIS
ENTIRE WORLD
ENSLAVED

HE IS A
DARK AND
TWISTED
NATURE

HE MUST BE
STOPPED

I SENSE
NO LIFE
WITHIN THESE
WALLS

MY VOICE IS
NOT PRESENT

COULD HE HAVE FLED
FOLLOWING MY ARRIVAL?

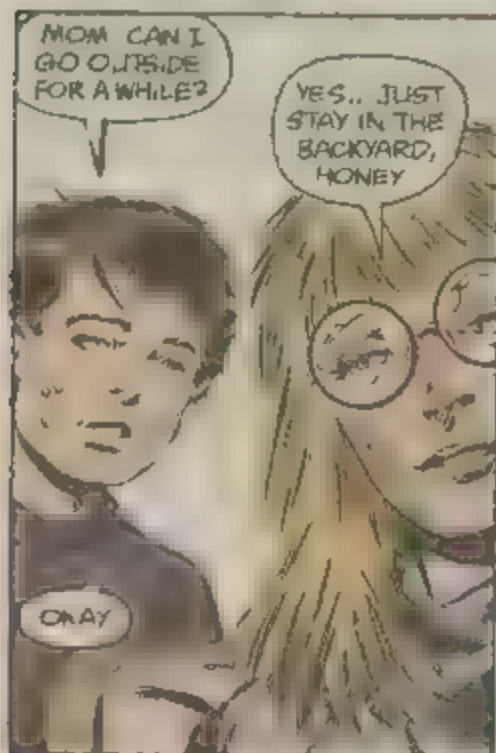
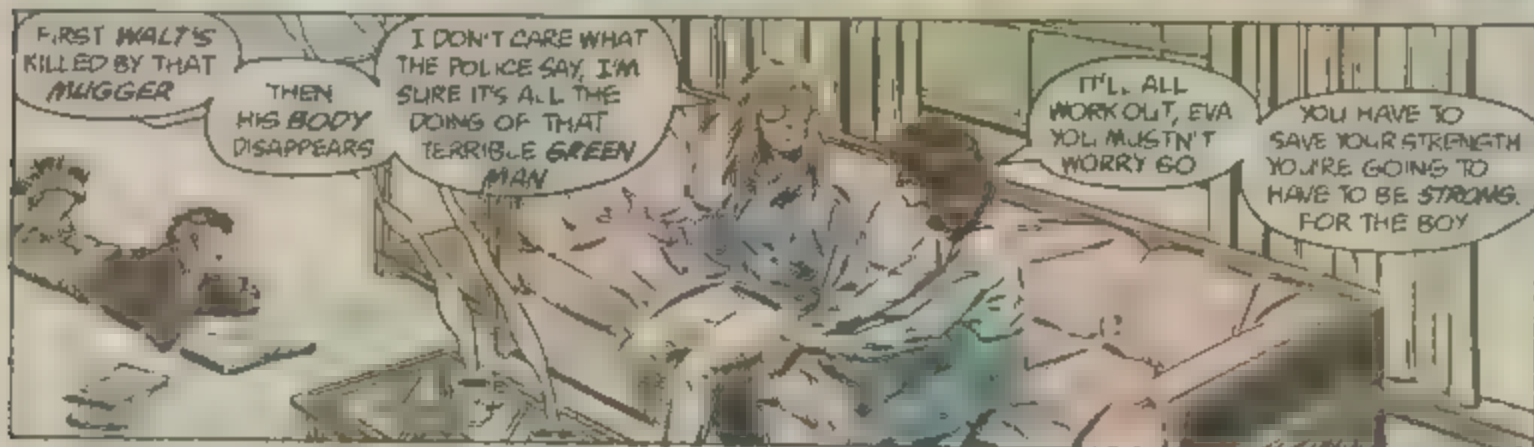
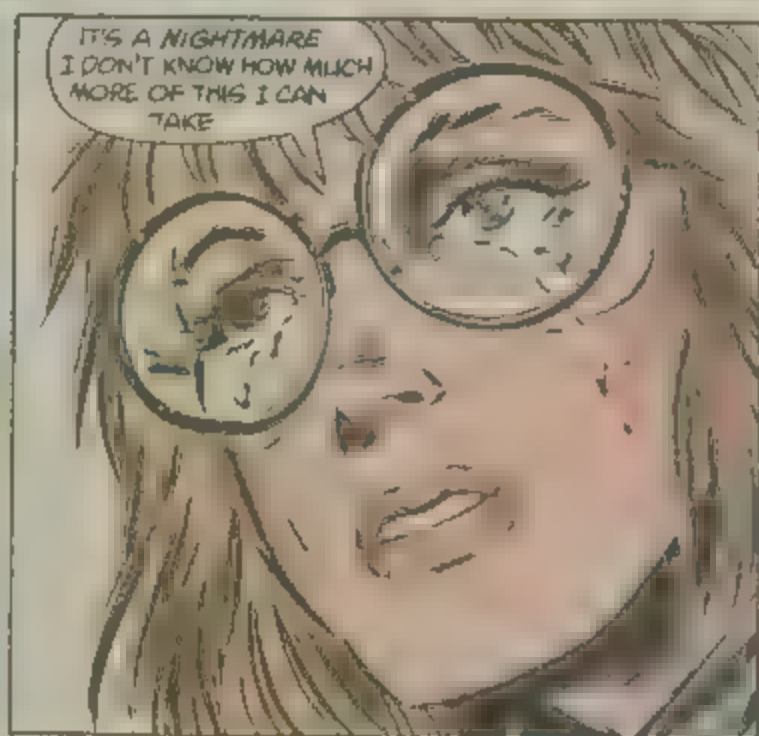
NO, THAT
DOESN'T
FEEL
RIGHT

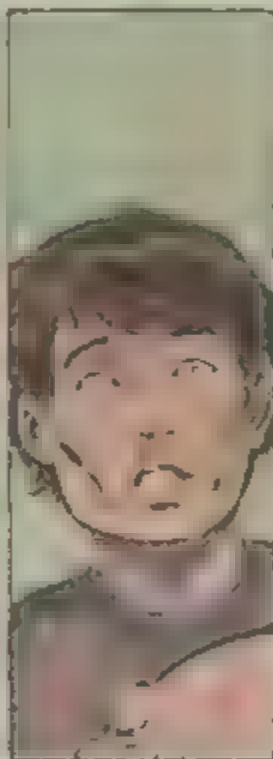
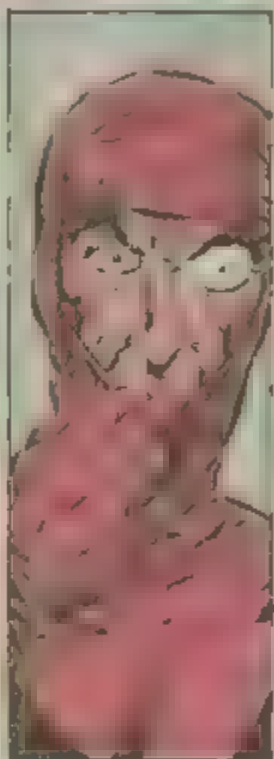
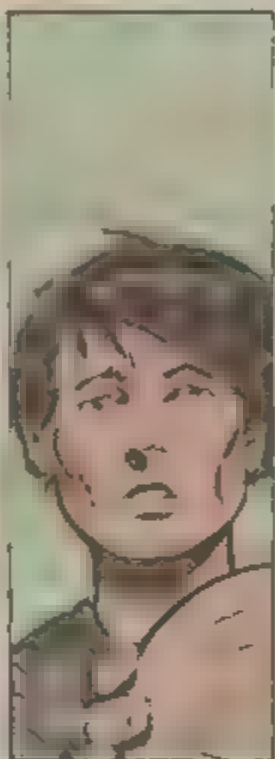
I SENSE THAT THE HARMONIC
VIBRATIONS IN THIS AREA ARE
OUT OF ALIGNMENT

THE JASON
COULDN'T CREATE ANOTHER
INTER-DIMENSIONAL
BRIDGE UNDER THESE
CONDITIONS

THE BALANCE
WON'T BE RIGHT FOR
AT LEAST 10 HOURS
THE JASON WON'T
RETURN UNTIL
THEN GOOD

THAT
GIVES ME TIME
TO ATTEND TO
ANOTHER IMPORTANT
MATTER





MYSTIFIED AND
CONFUSED?
THEN BE HERE IN 30 DAYS
FOR THE

#2
AND
ANSWERS!

GOOD EVENING. THIS IS LANCE ARMSTRONG FOR WHET NEWS.

WE'RE HERE AT S.T.A.R. LABORATORIES, WHERE AS YOU CAN SEE, A MAJOR BATTLE HAS TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND A BEING KNOWN ONLY AS THE WEIRD.

WE'RE HOPING WE CAN GET MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS ENCOUNTER FROM METROPOLIS' OWN SUPERMAN.

QUESTIONS!

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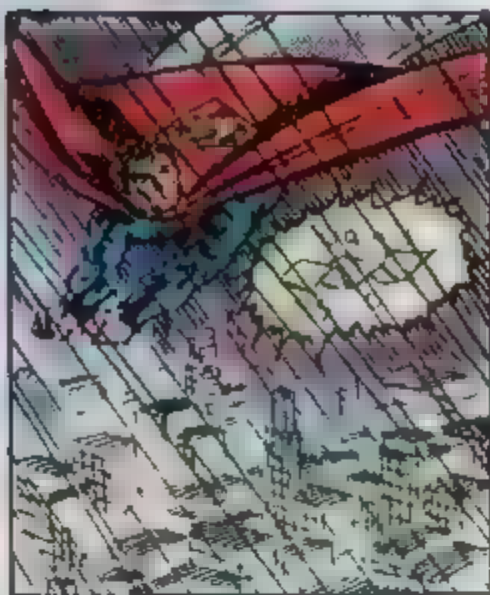
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APPARENTLY WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL **EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEING** WHO'S COME TO OUR WORLD FOR PURPOSES WHICH ARE STILL UNCLEAR.



"I DISCOVERED THIS BEING LAST NIGHT, WHILE IT WAS STILL EXISTING IN A FORM OF **PURE ENERGY**."



"NOT LONG AFTERWARDS THOUGH, THIS CREATURE **MANUFACTURED A BODY FOR ITSELF** HOW THIS WAS DONE REMAINS A **MYSTERY**."

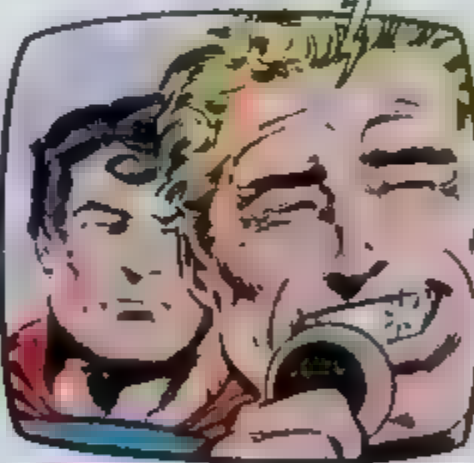


"HE WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE **JUSTICE LEAGUE** AT THIS POINT, UNDER AUTHORITY INVESTED IN THEM BY THE **UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**. UNFORTUNATELY THEIR CAPTIVE PROVED TOO **POWERFUL TO HOLD**."



WE UNDERSTAND YOU **WEREN'T PRESENT** WHEN THIS CREATURE, THE **WEIRD**, MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE.

WOULD YOU MIND TELLING US **WHERE YOU WERE?**



I WAS BUSY ELSEWHERE



SO WHAT NOW?



NOW I GO OUT, LOCATE THE **WEIRD** AND RETURN HIM TO CUSTODY

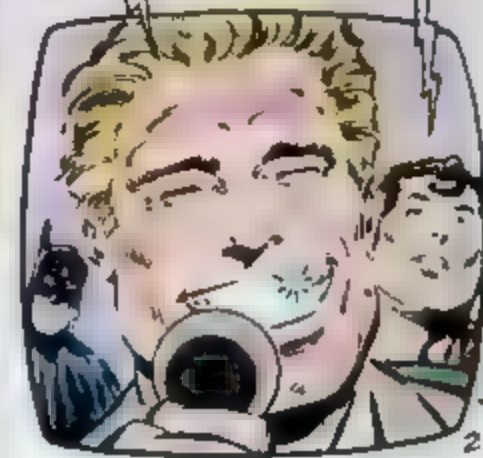
HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT THIS MANHUNT TO TAKE? DAYS? WEEKS?

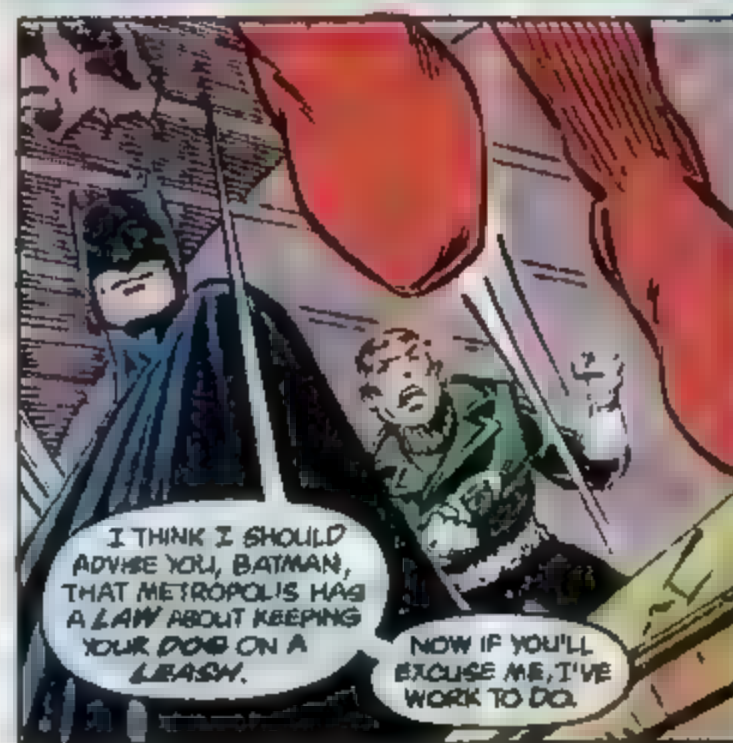
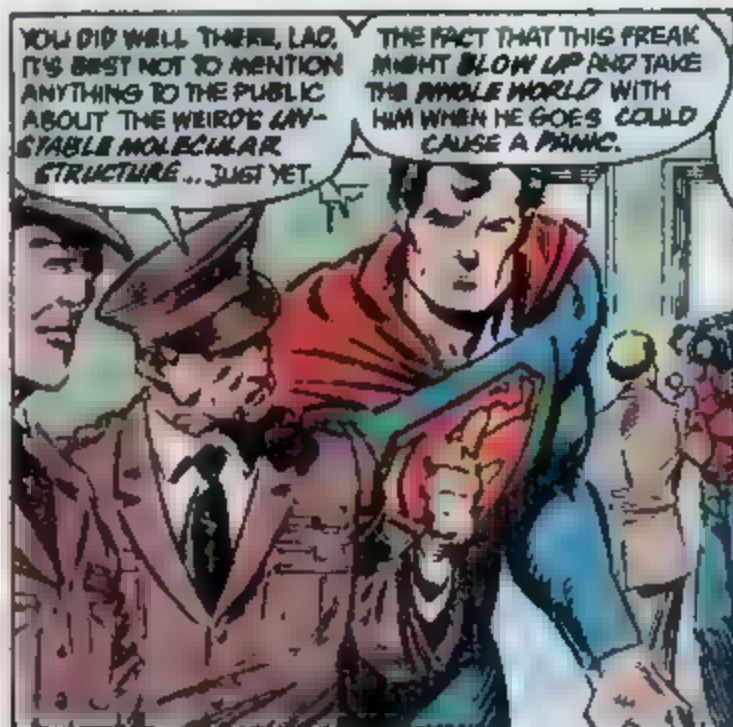


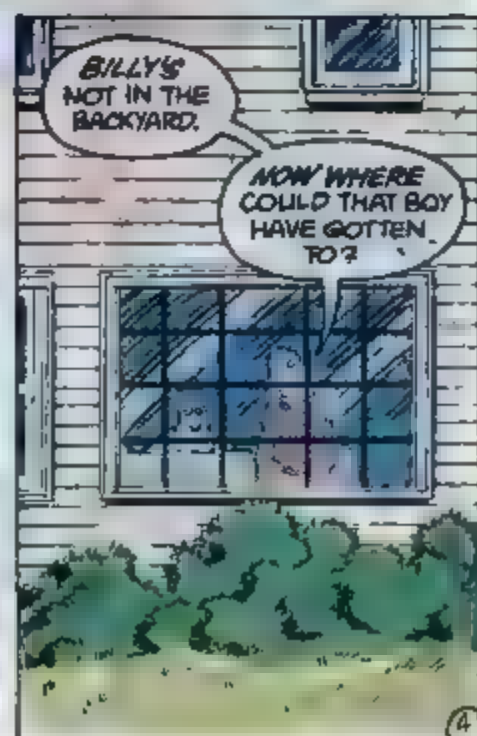
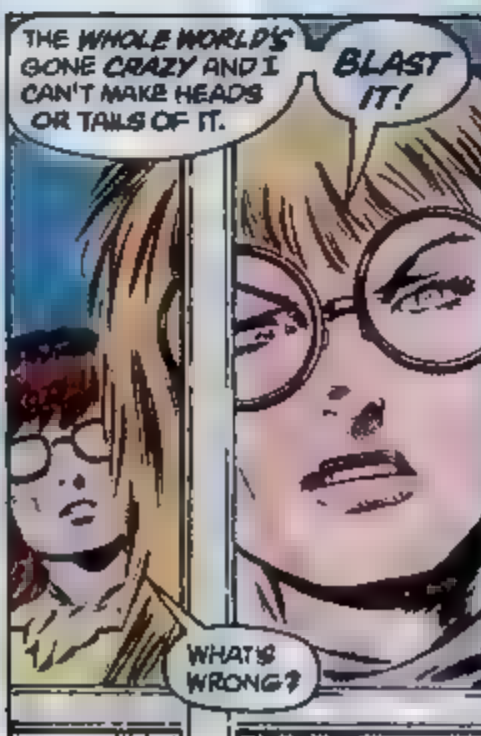
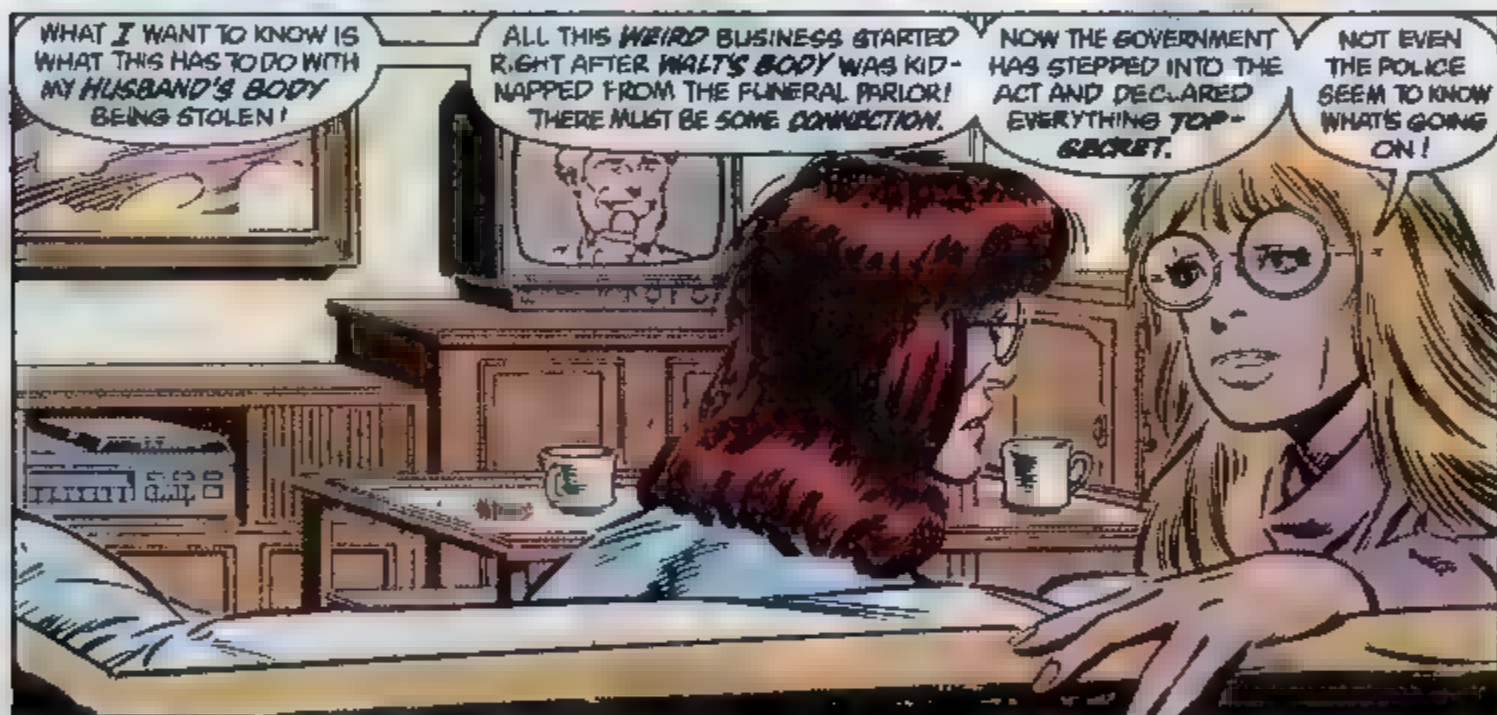
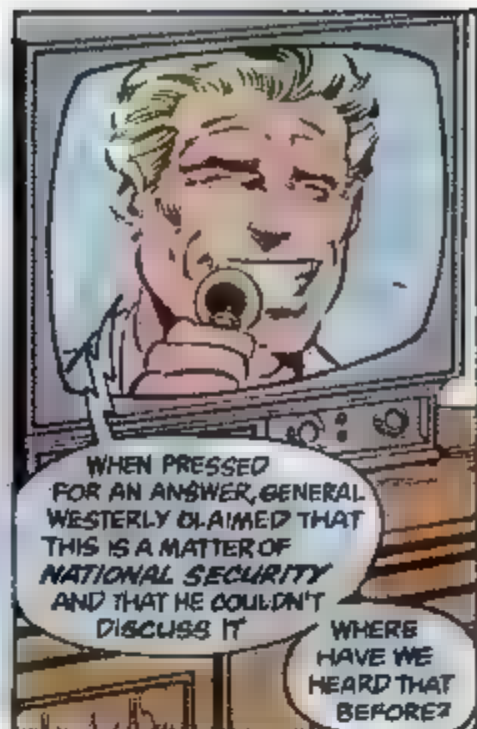
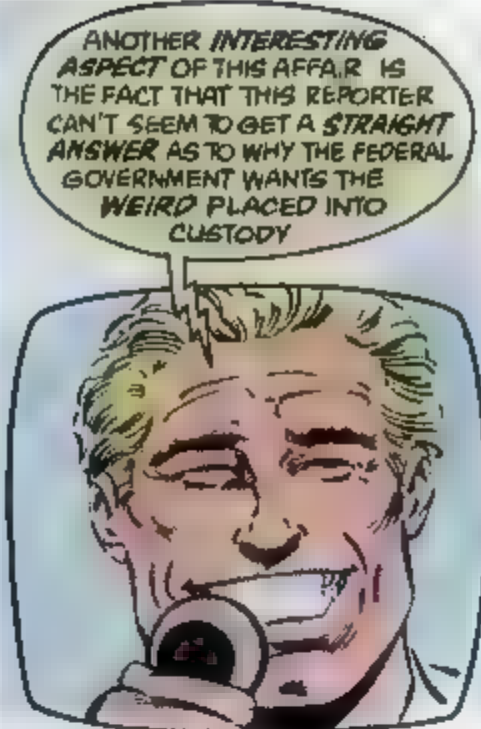
NO, IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD FOR ME TO LOCATE SOMEONE WHO LOOKS AS **ODD** AS THE **WEIRD** DOES, EVEN IN A CITY THIS SIZE.

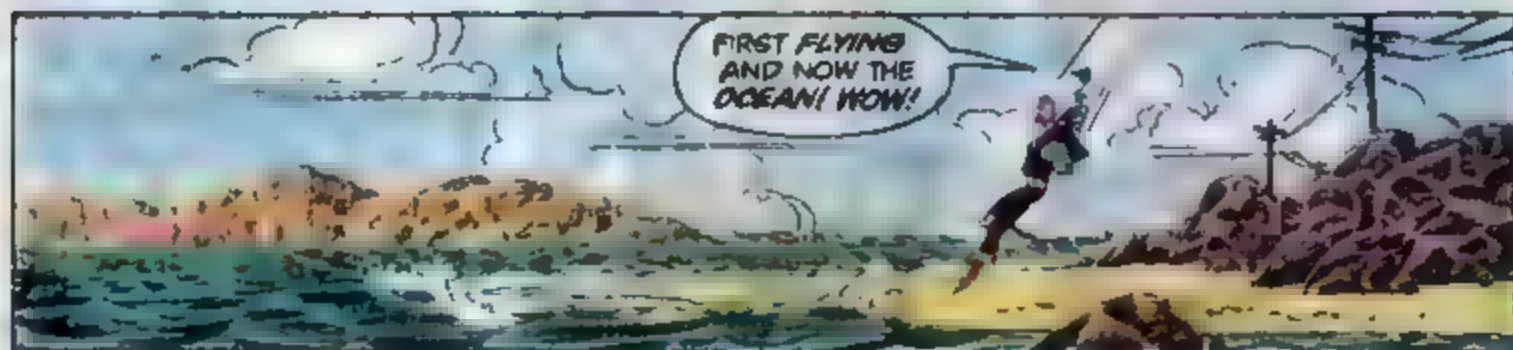
THERE, YOU HEARD IT, FOLKS! **SUPERMAN PREDICTS HE'LL SUCCEED** WHERE THE **JUSTICE LEAGUE FAILED**.

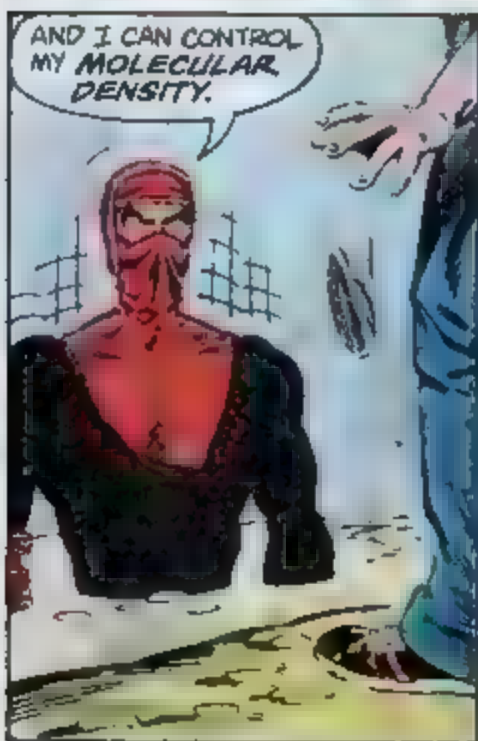
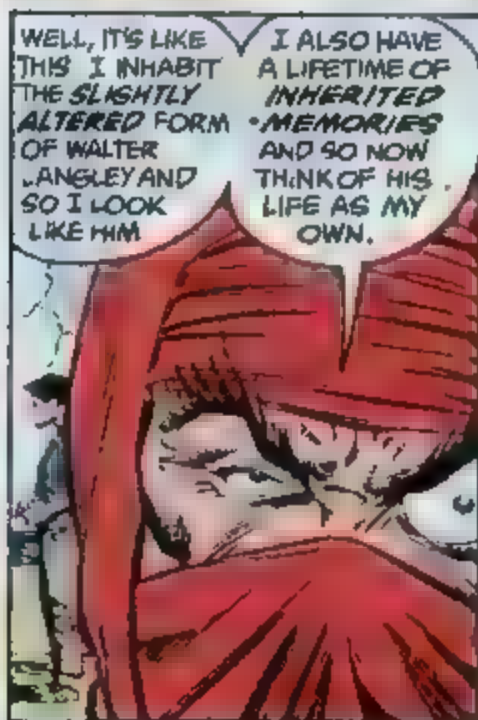
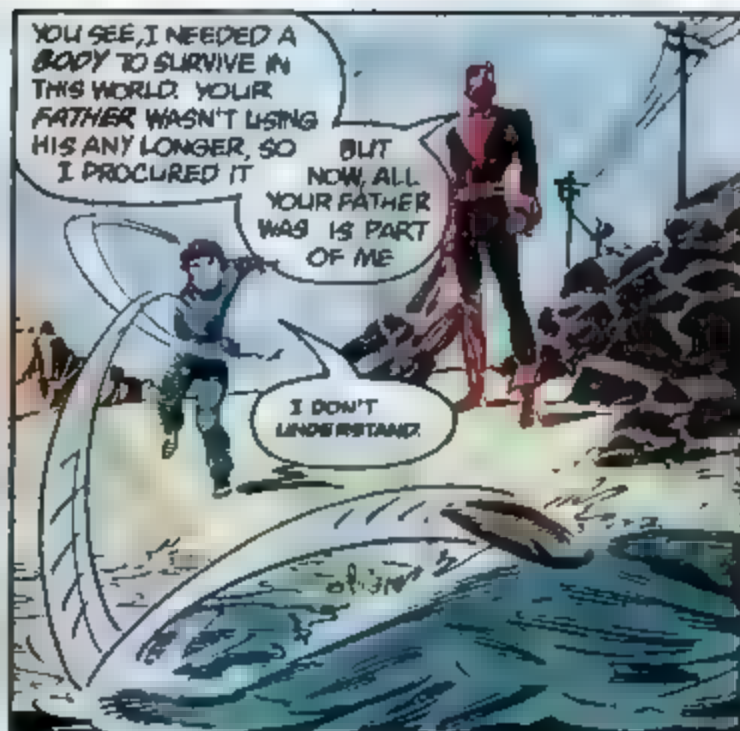
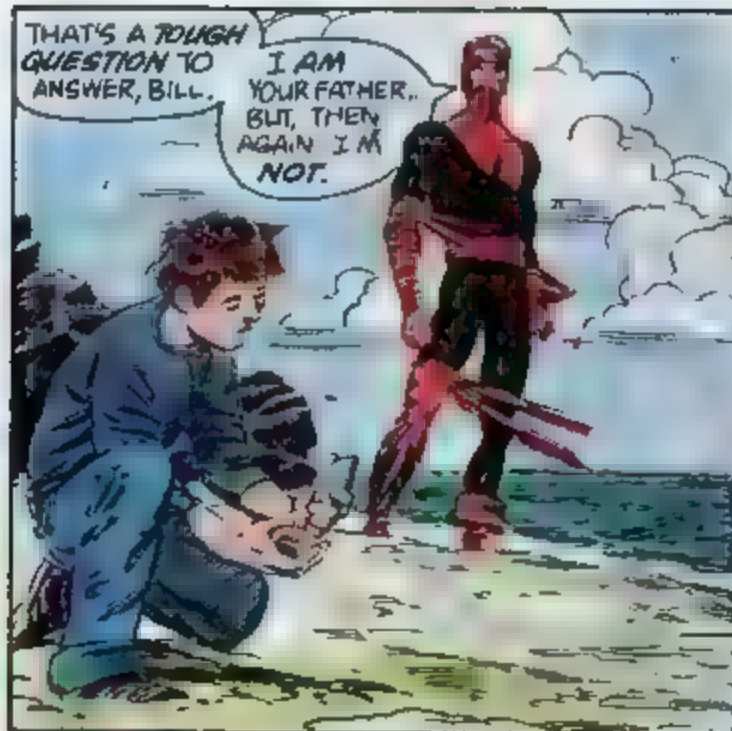
OH, GREAT...

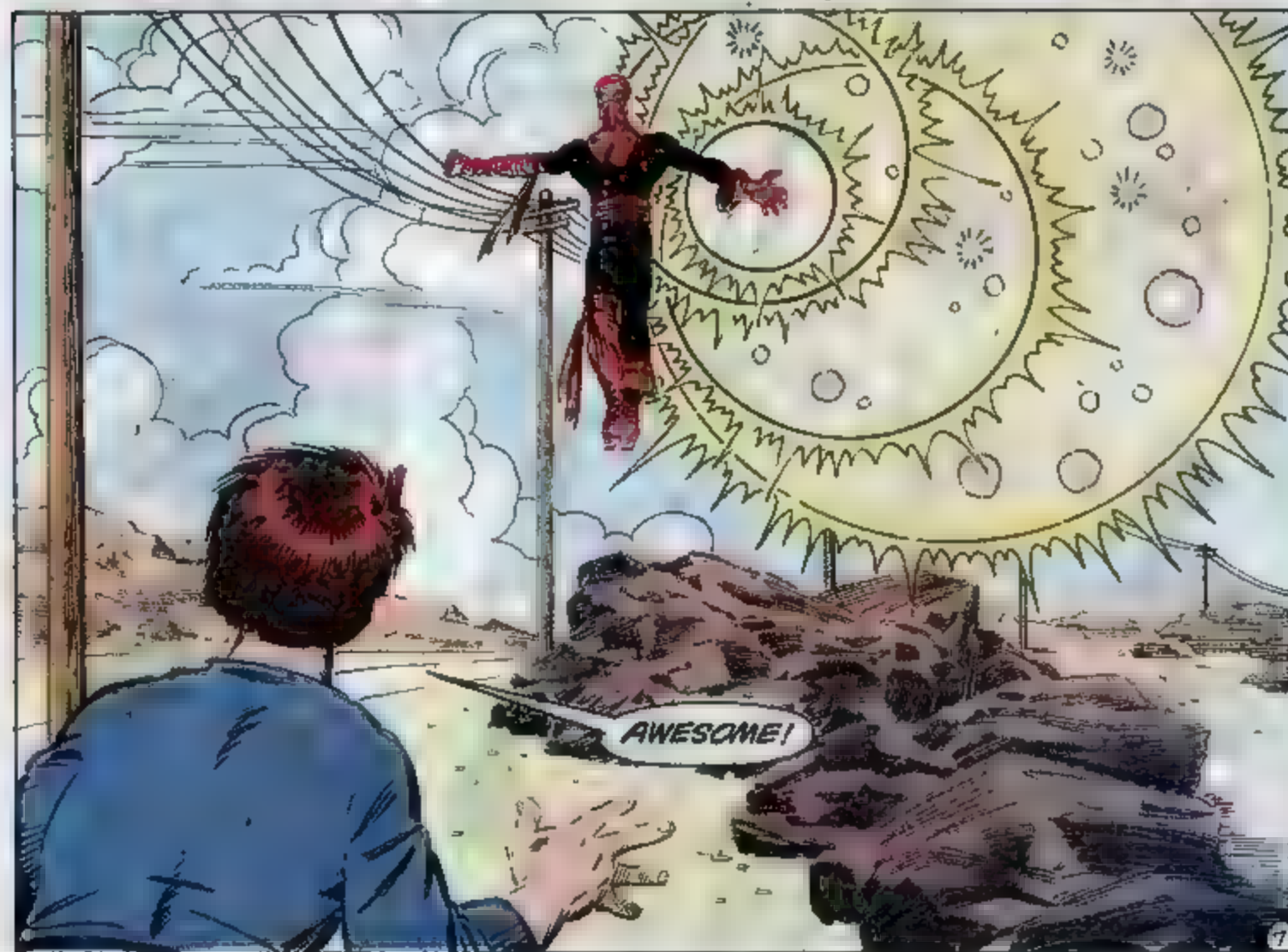
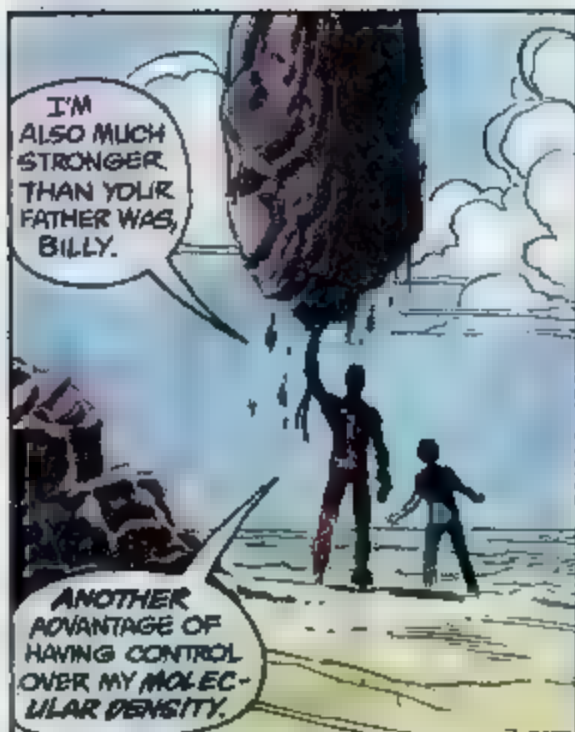














THAT WAS THE DULDEST, DAD!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BILLY. WHAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE IS THAT I'M NOT YOUR FATHER...



I'M SORRY, BILLY, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT YOUR DAD IS DEAD.

I POSSESS HIS MEMORIES, AND WEAR HIS BODY, BUT I'M SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOUR FATHER



THEN WHO ARE YOU?

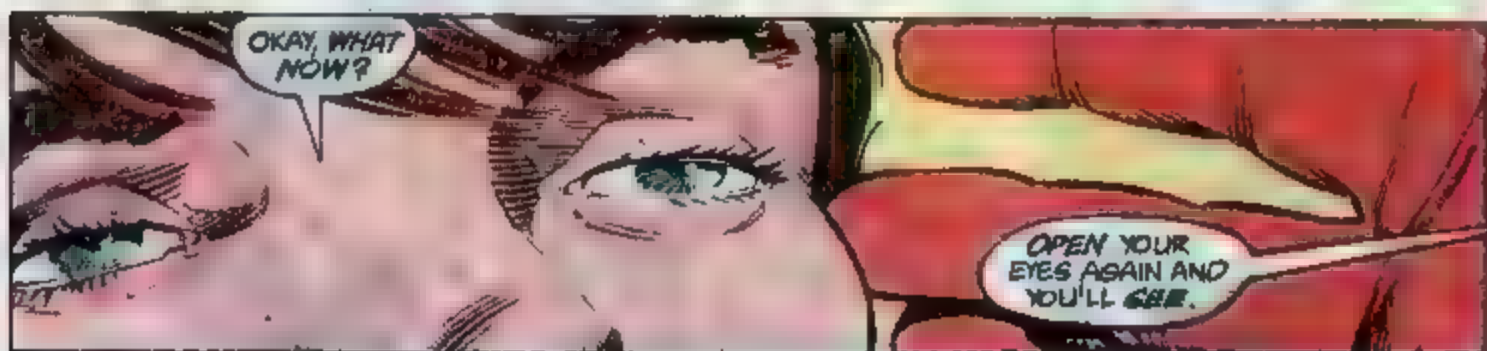
YOU DON'T ASK THE EASY QUESTIONS, DO YOU?

I'M WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL AN ALIEN... BUT NOT REALLY.



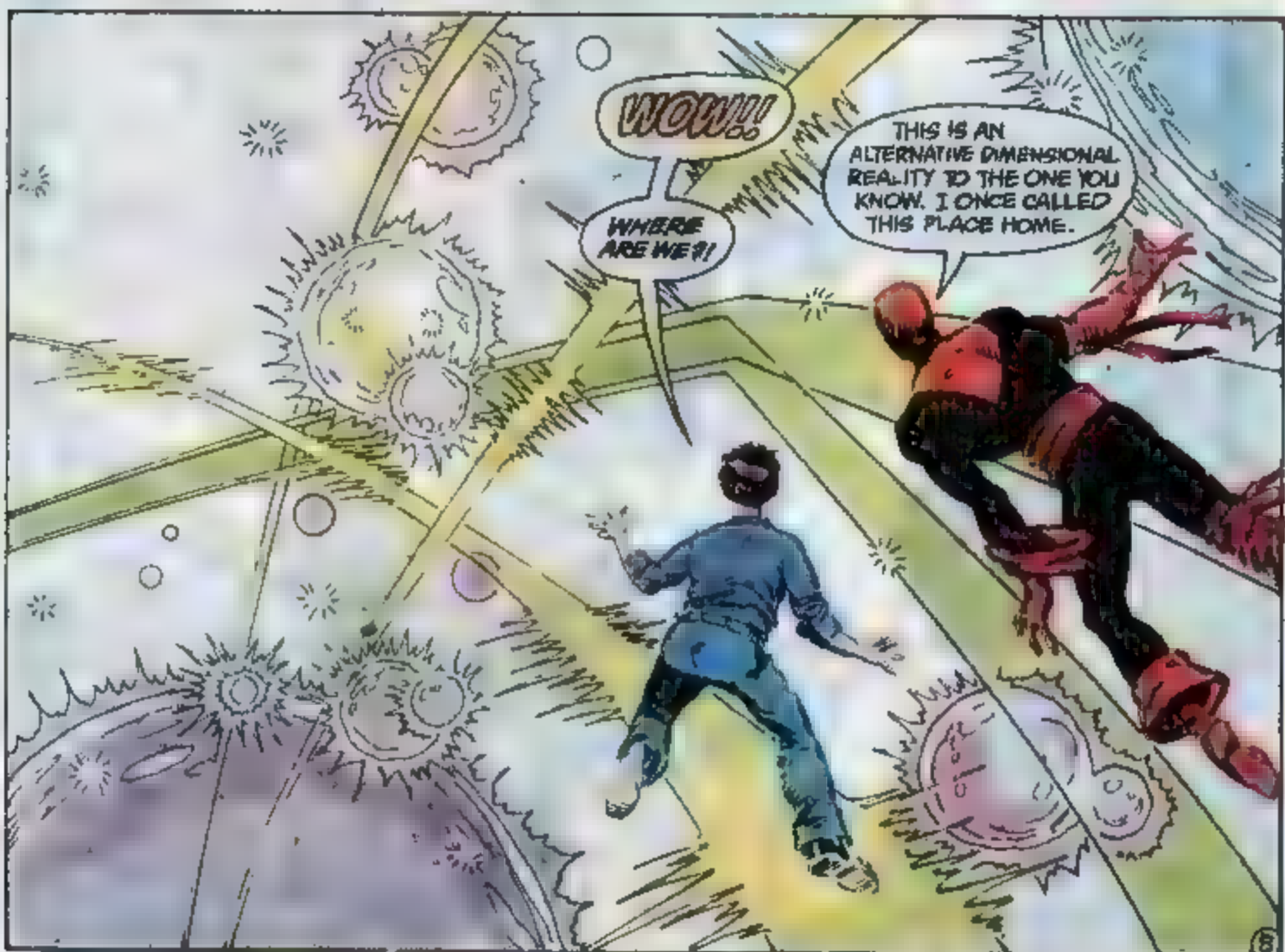
ONCE AGAIN IT WOULD PROVE MUCH EASIER TO SHOW YOU.

WOULD YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A MOMENT, BILLY?



OKAY, WHAT NOW?

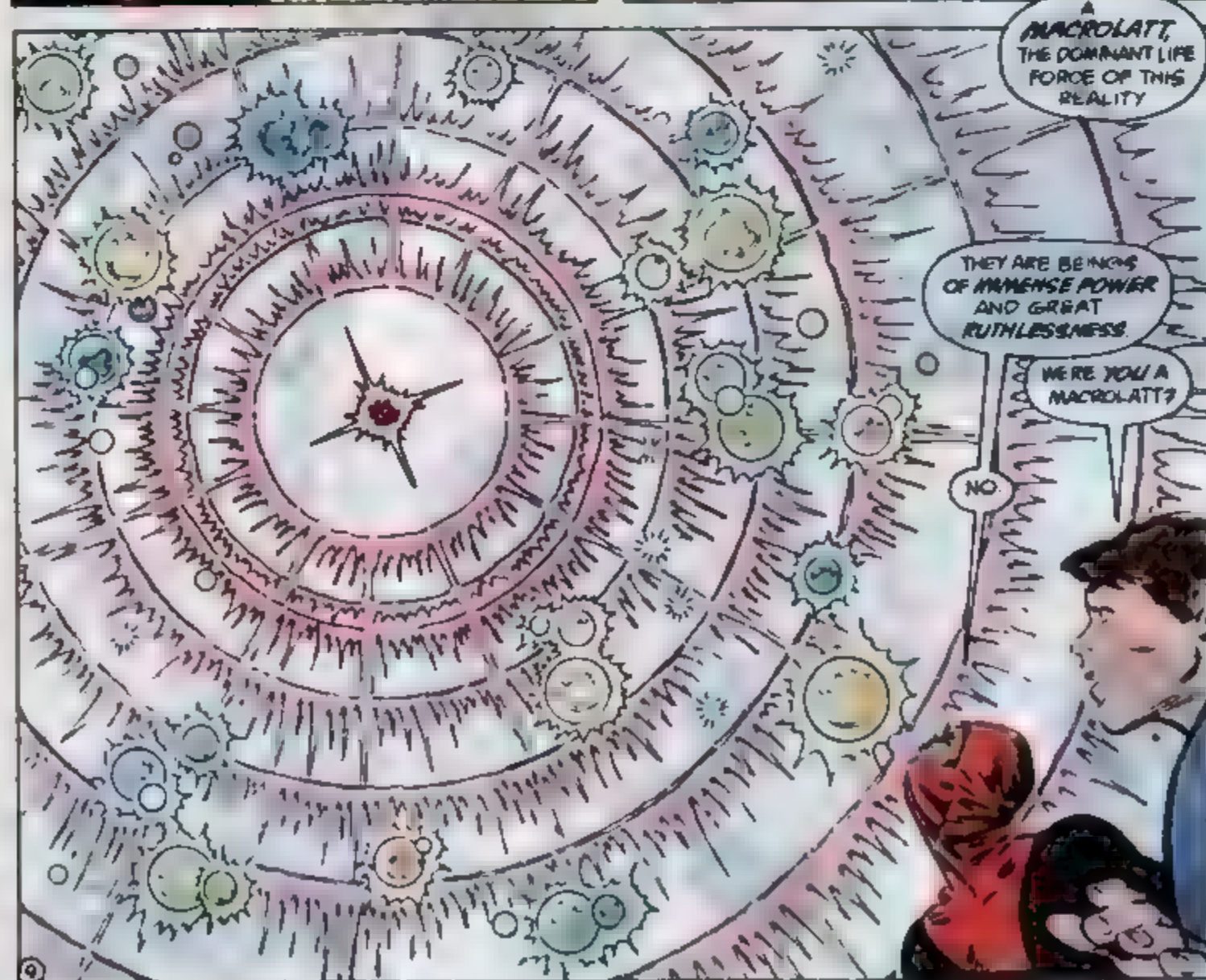
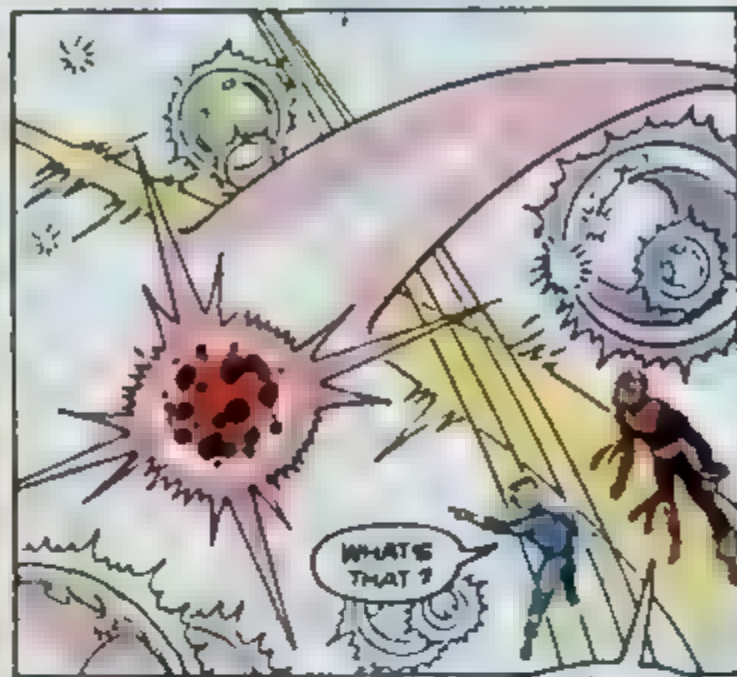
OPEN YOUR EYES AGAIN AND YOU'LL SEE.

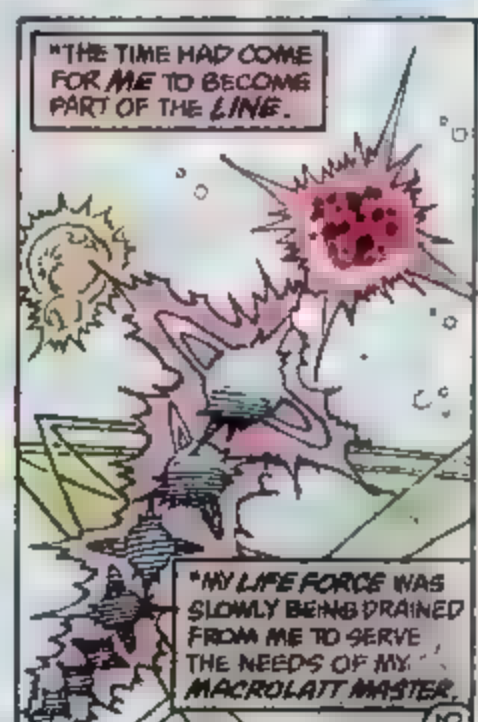
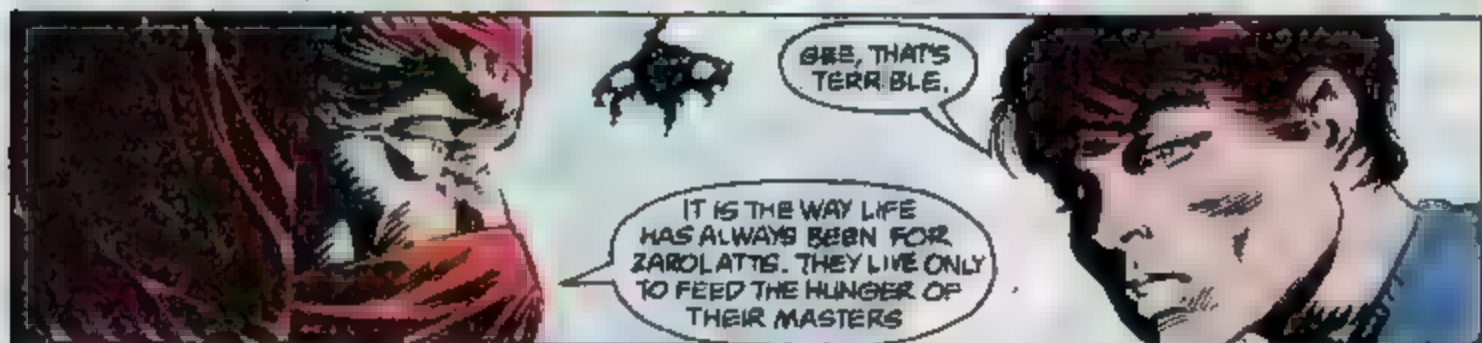
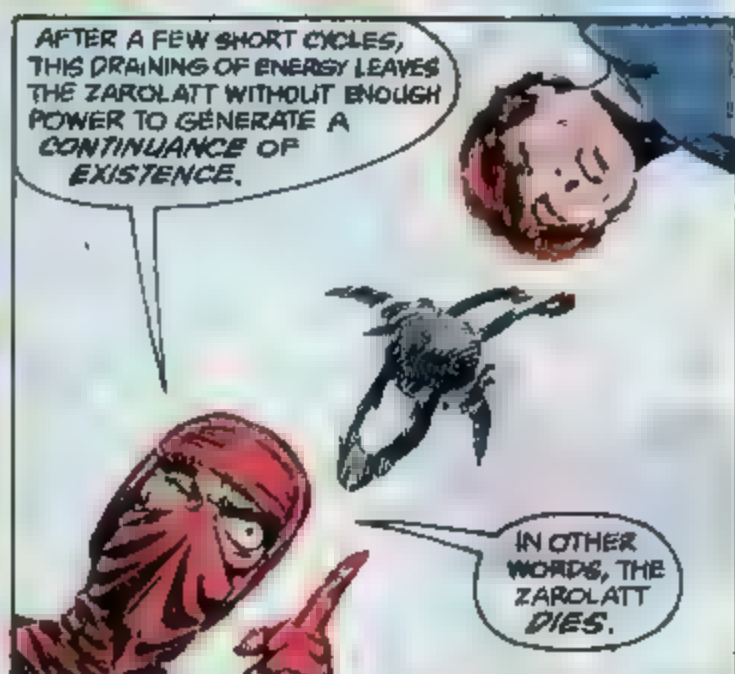
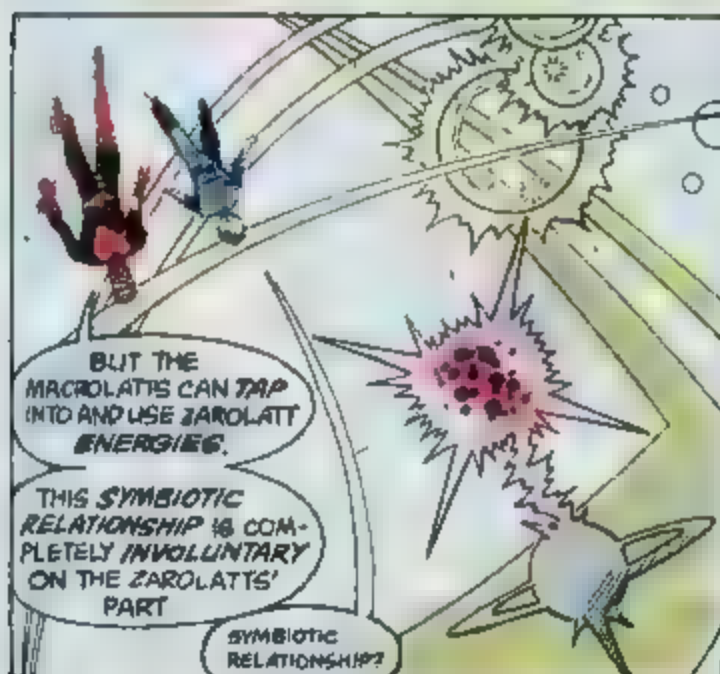


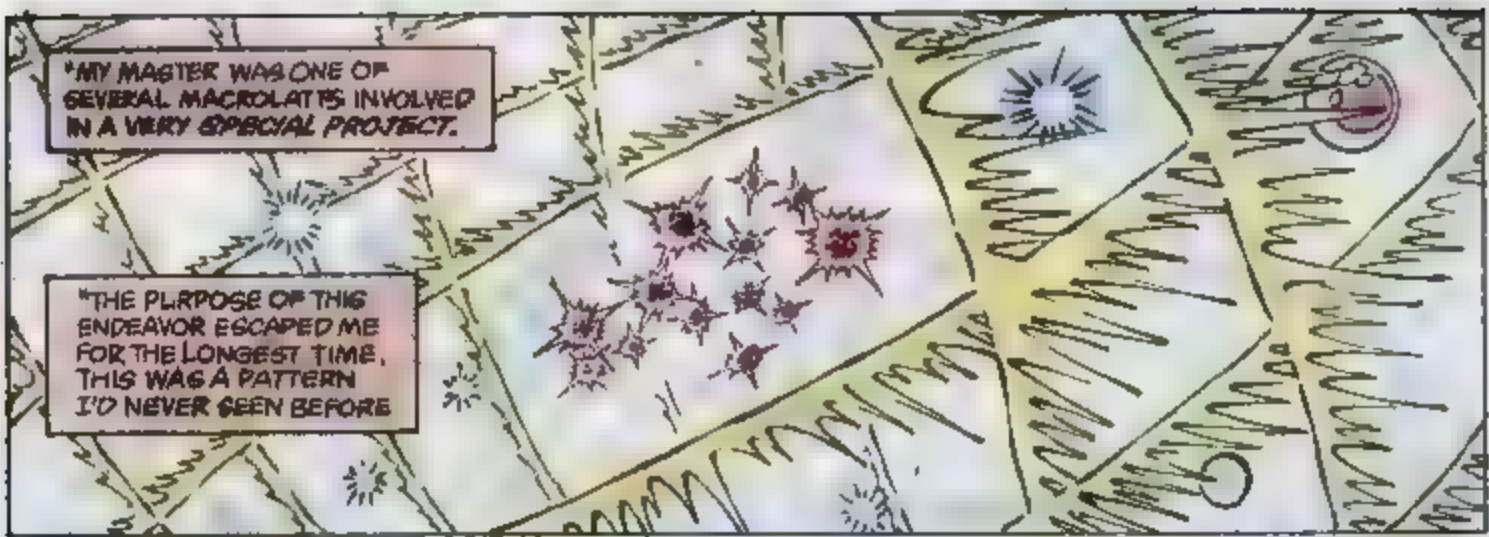
WOW!!

WHERE ARE WE?!

THIS IS AN ALTERNATIVE DIMENSIONAL REALITY TO THE ONE YOU KNOW. I ONCE CALLED THIS PLACE HOME.

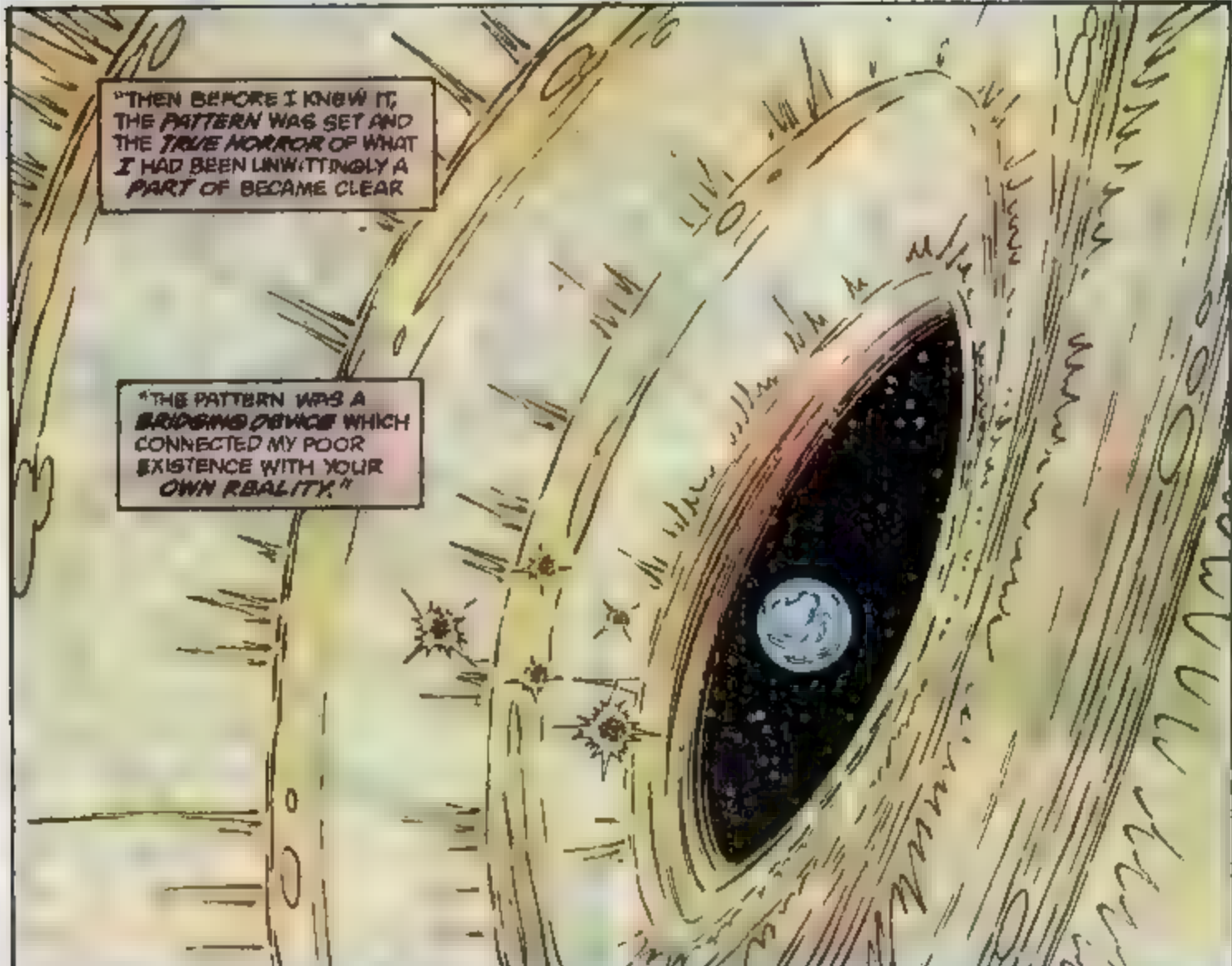






"MY MASTER WAS ONE OF SEVERAL MACROLATTS INVOLVED IN A VERY SPECIAL PROJECT.

"THE PURPOSE OF THIS ENDEAVOR ESCAPED ME FOR THE LONGEST TIME, THIS WAS A PATTERN I'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE



"THEN BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE PATTERN WAS SET AND THE TRUE HORROR OF WHAT I HAD BEEN UNWITTINGLY A PART OF BECAME CLEAR

"THE PATTERN WAS A BRIDGING DEVICE WHICH CONNECTED MY POOR EXISTENCE WITH YOUR OWN REALITY."



MACROLATTS NEVER DIE, FOR ENERGY CANNOT BE DESTROYED. BUT IN THIS REALITY, ENERGY CAN BE CREATED FROM THE ETHER.



THE MACROLATTS' NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW. LONG HAVE THEY SOUGHT NEW HORIZONS TO EXPLORE AND CONQUER.

THEY FINALLY FOUND WHAT THEY SOUGHT IN THIS WORLD ... YOUR WORLD.

NEW CHALLENGES. NEW TERRITORIES.

"FORTUNATELY THEIR
EVIL ENDS WERE NOT
GAINED EASILY

"TWO MACROLATTS ATTEMPTED TO
CROSS OVER TO YOUR WORLD. THEY
FAILED TO REACH THEIR GOAL AND
WERE DISINCORPORATED.

"THE UNHEARD OF
HAD OCCURRED
TWO MACROLATTS
HAD DIED!"

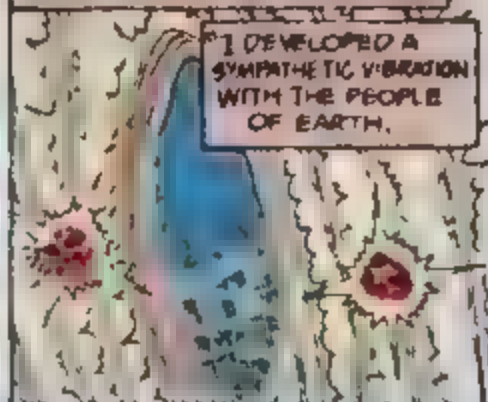


BUT NOT EVEN
THIS CALAMITY
WOULD STAY THEIR
HUNGER. THEY
WERE DETERMINED
TO REACH YOUR
LUSH GREEN
WORLD

IT WAS DECIDED
THAT WHAT THEY
NEEDED WAS
AN AGENT ON
YOUR SIDE OF
THE DIVIDE TO
AID THEM IN
THEIR CROSSOVER

"I LEARNED MUCH ABOUT YOUR
WONDERFUL WORLD DURING THE
MACROLATTS' TELEPATHIC AND
VISUAL SEARCH FOR THEIR AGENT

"I DEVELOPED A
SYMPATHETIC VIBRATION
WITH THE PEOPLE
OF EARTH.



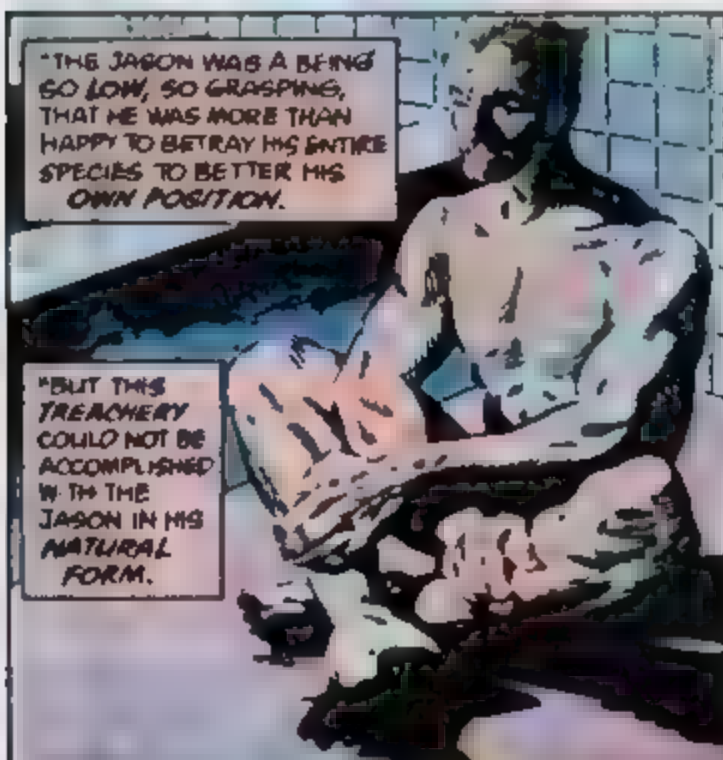
"FINALLY THE MACROLATTS FOUND
THE TRAITOR THEY SOUGHT IN THE
FORM OF THE JASON.

"THEY WERE ABLE
TO COMMUNICATE
WITH HIM WHILE
HE SLEPT



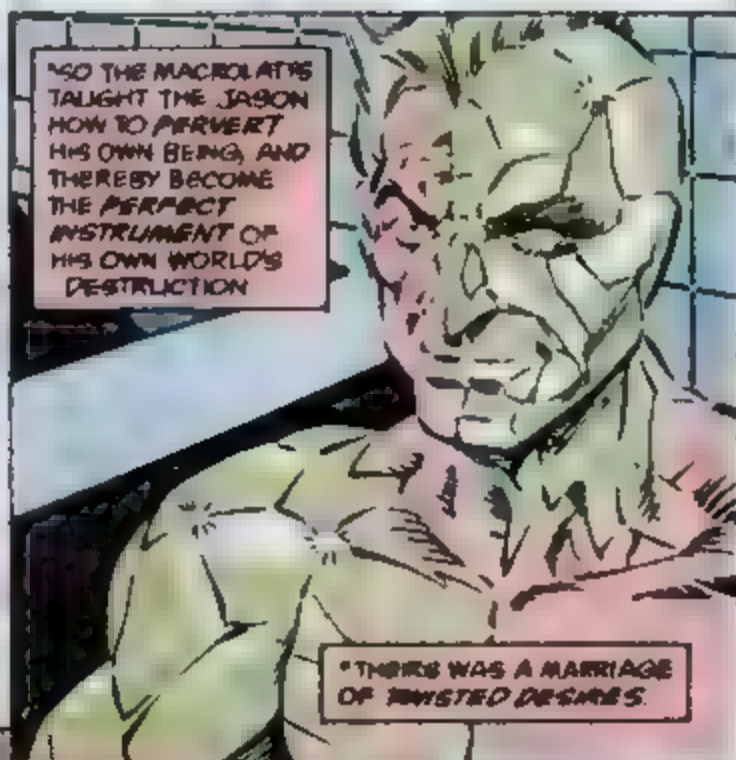
"THE JASON WAS A BEING
SO LOW, SO GRASPING,
THAT HE WAS MORE THAN
HAPPY TO BETRAY HIS ENTIRE
SPECIES TO BETTER HIS
OWN POSITION.

"BUT THIS
TREACHERY
COULD NOT BE
ACCOMPLISHED
WITH THE
JASON IN HIS
NATURAL
FORM.



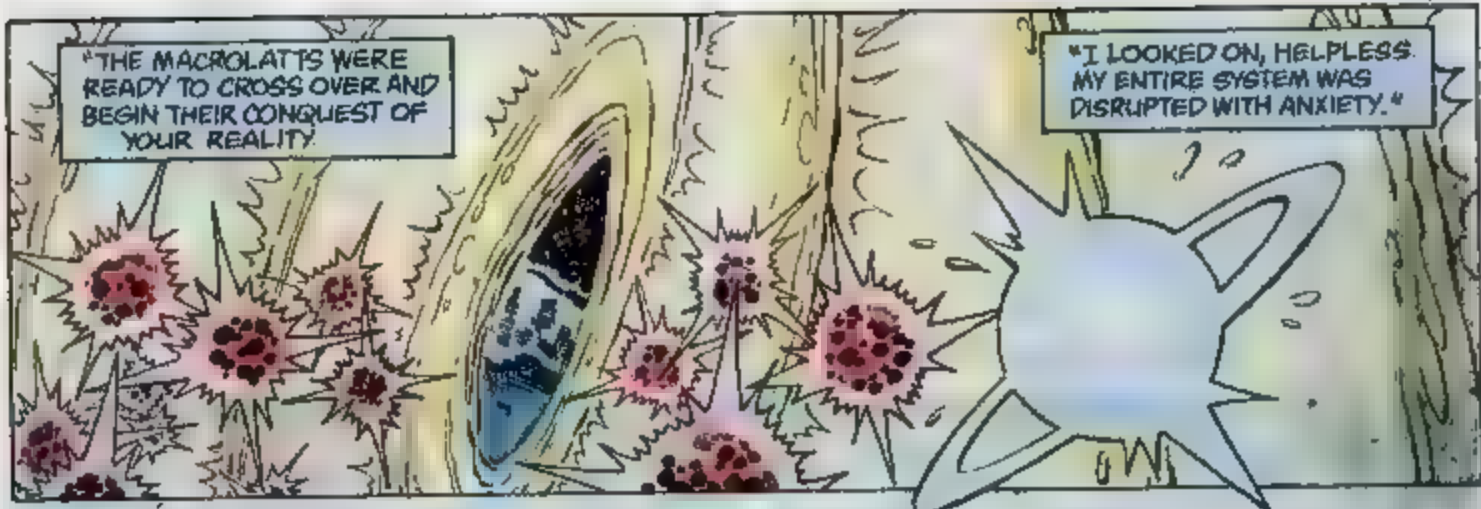
"SO THE MACROLATTS
TAUGHT THE JASON
HOW TO PERVERT
HIS OWN BEING, AND
THEREBY BECAME
THE PERFECT
INSTRUMENT OF
HIS OWN WORLD'S
DESTRUCTION

"THERE WAS A MARRIAGE
OF TWISTED DESIRES.



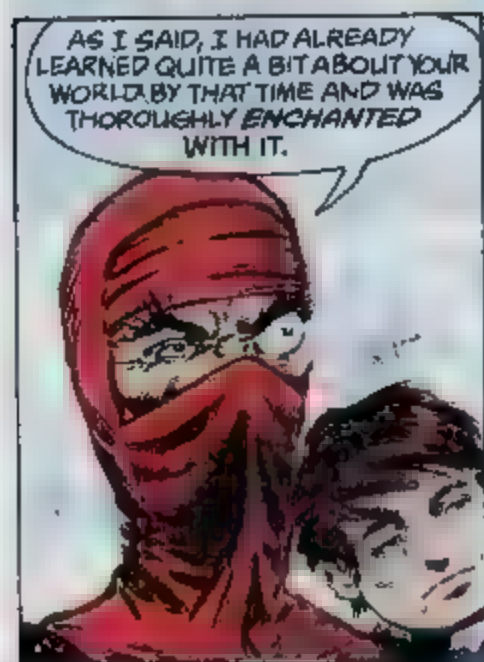
"AND SO, THE
JASON CREATED
THE CRYSTALLINE
ANCHOR THAT WOULD
STABILIZE THE
BRIDGE BETWEEN
YOUR WORLD AND
MINE.



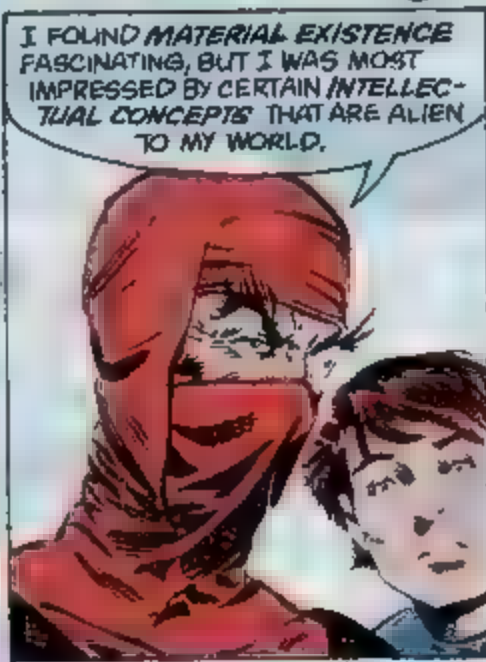


"THE MACROLATTS WERE
READY TO CROSS OVER AND
BEGIN THEIR CONQUEST OF
YOUR REALITY."

"I LOOKED ON, HELPLESS.
MY ENTIRE SYSTEM WAS
DISRUPTED WITH ANXIETY."



AS I SAID, I HAD ALREADY
LEARNED QUITE A BIT ABOUT YOUR
WORLD BY THAT TIME AND WAS
THOROUGHLY ENCHANTED
WITH IT.



I FOUND MATERIAL EXISTENCE
FASCINATING, BUT I WAS MOST
IMPRESSED BY CERTAIN INTELLEC-
TUAL CONCEPTS THAT ARE ALIEN
TO MY WORLD.



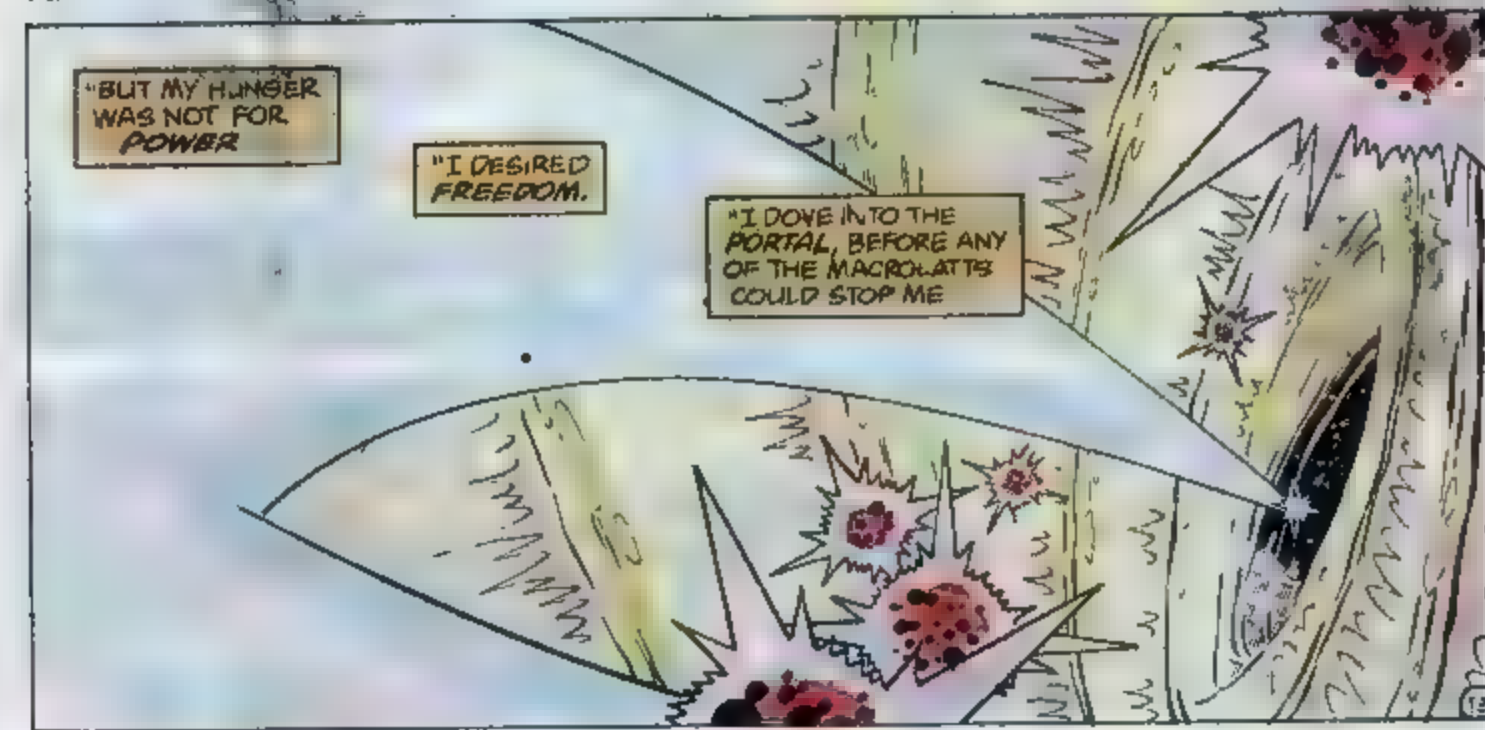
YOU HAVE SOMETHING
ON THIS WORLD YOU CALL
FREEDOM.



IT WAS AN ABSTRACT
THOUGHT I'D NEVER
ENCOUNTERED, BUT
SOMETHING I HAD
LONGED FOR ALL
MY LIFE.

SUDDENLY, I
UNDERSTOOD THE
DRIVING PASSIONS
THAT DROVE THE
MACROLATTS...

I, TOO,
HUNGRED AS
THEY DID.



"BUT MY HUNGER
WAS NOT FOR
POWER

"I DESIRED
FREEDOM.

"I DOVE INTO THE
PORTAL, BEFORE ANY
OF THE MACROLATTS
COULD STOP ME

"FORTUNATELY, A ZAROLATT'S HARMONIC BALANCE IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO A MACROLATT'S FOR ME TO CROSS OVER TO YOUR WORLD, BUT DIFFERENT ENOUGH SO THAT MY PASSING DISRUPTED THE BRIDGE'S STRUCTURE AND IT COLLAPSED BEHIND ME

"UPON ENTERING YOUR WORLD, I FOUND MYSELF FACE TO FACE WITH THE JASON.

"IN MY ENERGY FORM I WAS NO MATCH FOR HIM, SO I FLED "

MY NEW SURROUNDINGS OPENED NEW SENSES WITHIN ME.

I SUDDENLY REALIZED MANY THINGS ABOUT MY SELF AND MY PRESENT ENVIRONMENT THAT WERE ALARMING.

THE PHYSICAL LAWS OF THIS DIMENSION WOULD NOT ALLOW ME TO SURVIVE LONG IN MY PURE ENERGY FORM.

I NEEDED A CONTAINMENT VESSEL, A BODY.

A MACROLATT WOULD HAVE JUST EJECTED THE LIFE FORCE OF THE FIRST HUMAN HE ENCOUNTERED AND TAKEN OVER HIS BODY

I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO DO THIS.

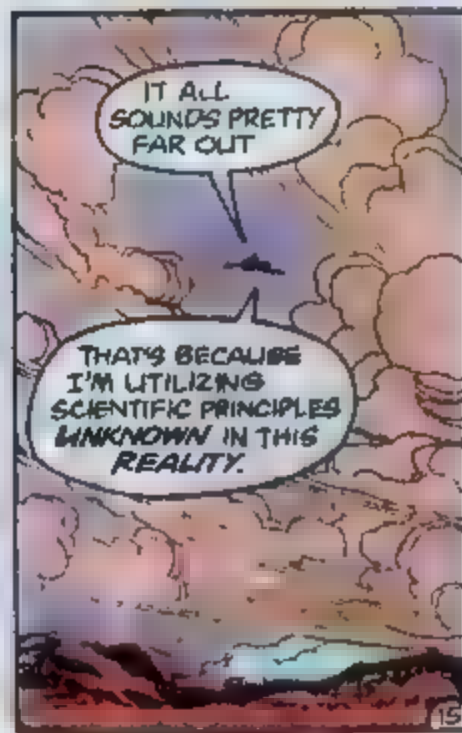
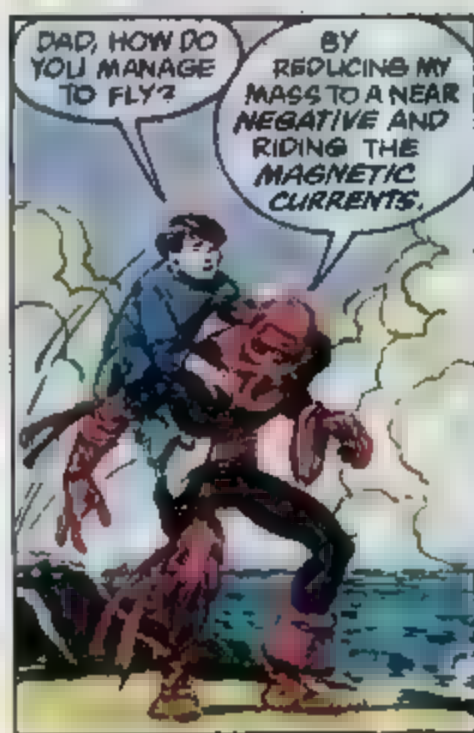
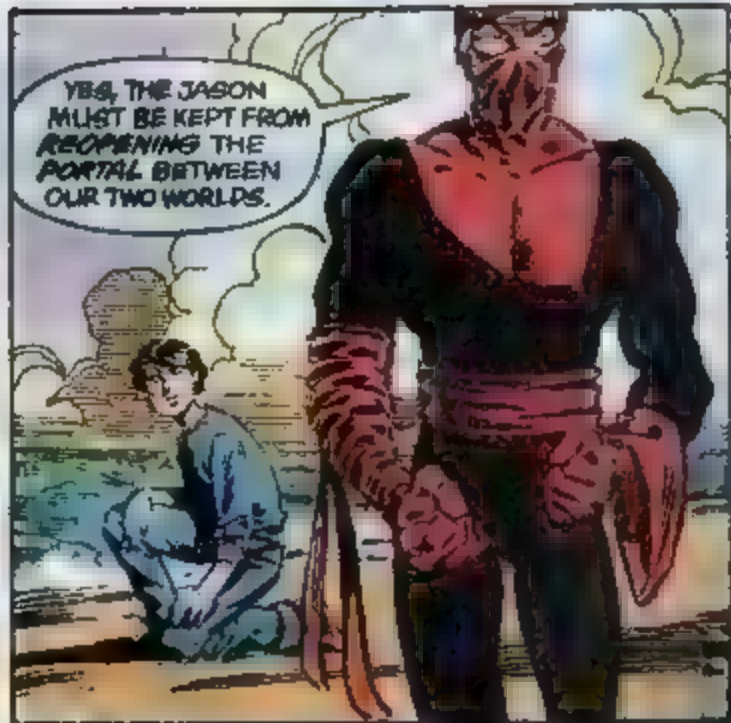
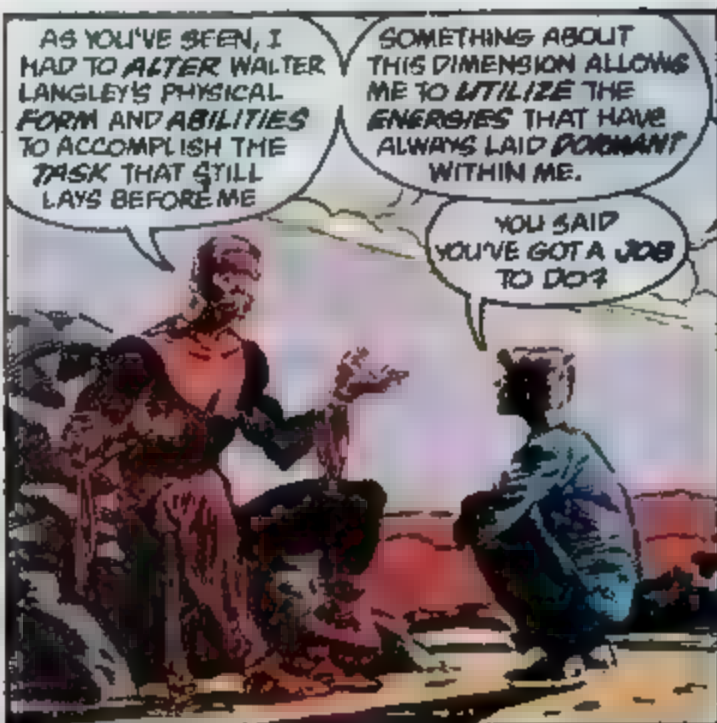
"ZAROLATTS ARE A POSITIVE LIFE FORM. WE RESPECT THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER BEINGS.

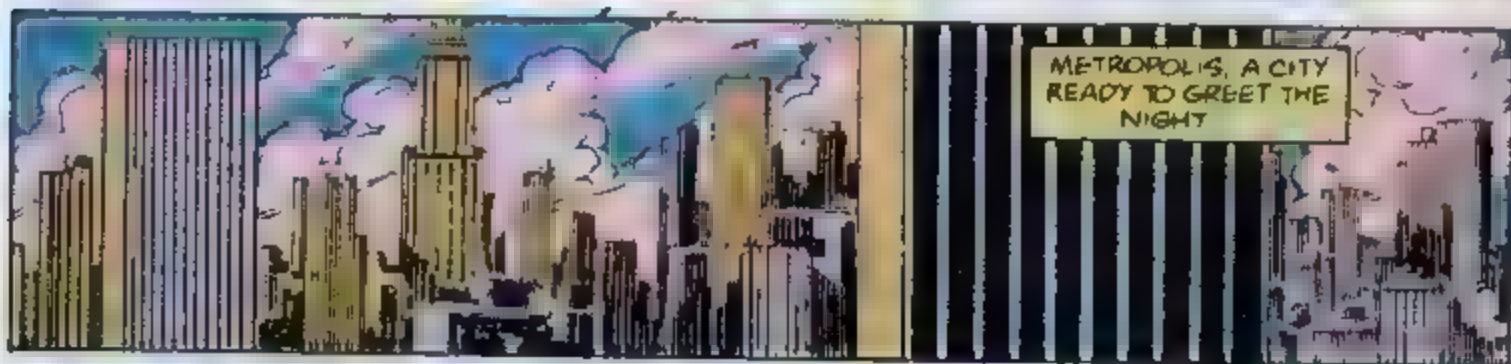
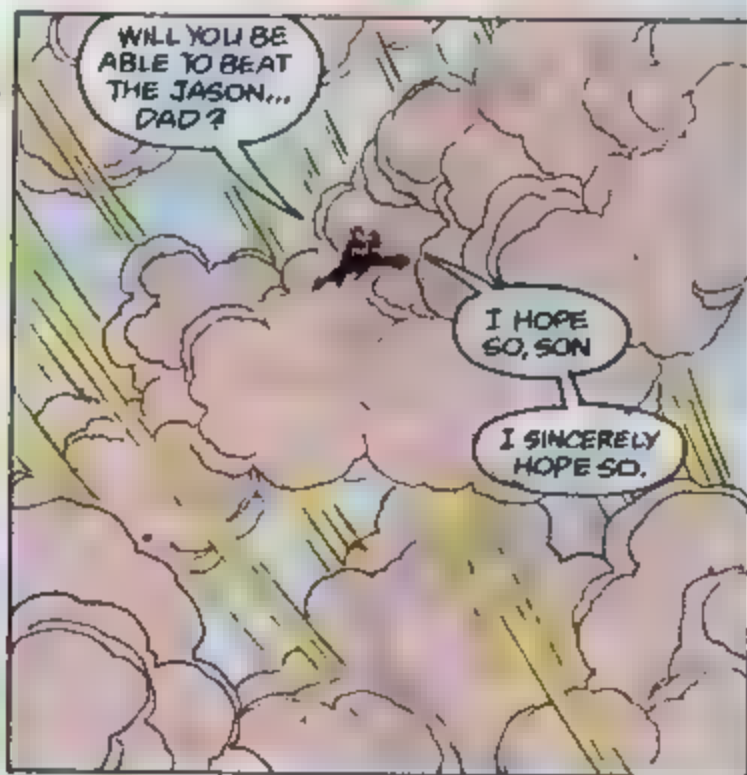
I COULD NOT DOOM ANOTHER SOUL TO OBLIVION JUST TO SAVE MYSELF.

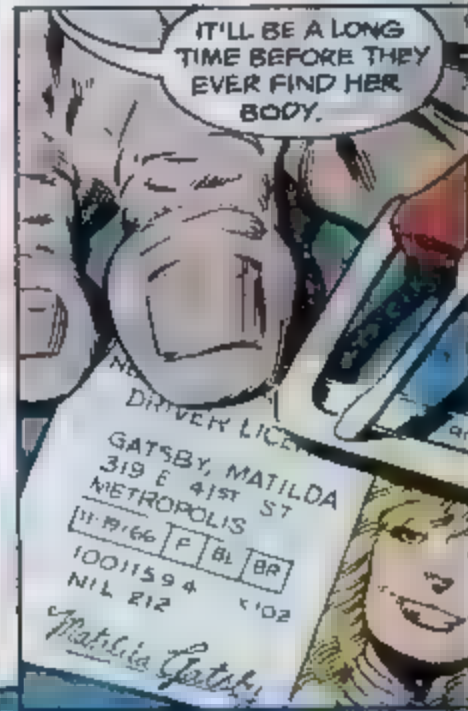
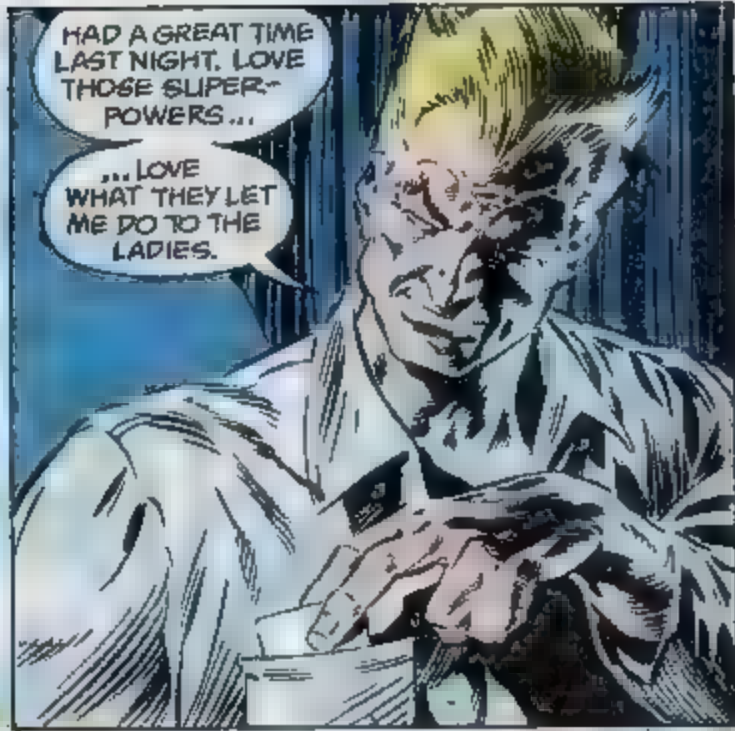
"I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT... I THINK "

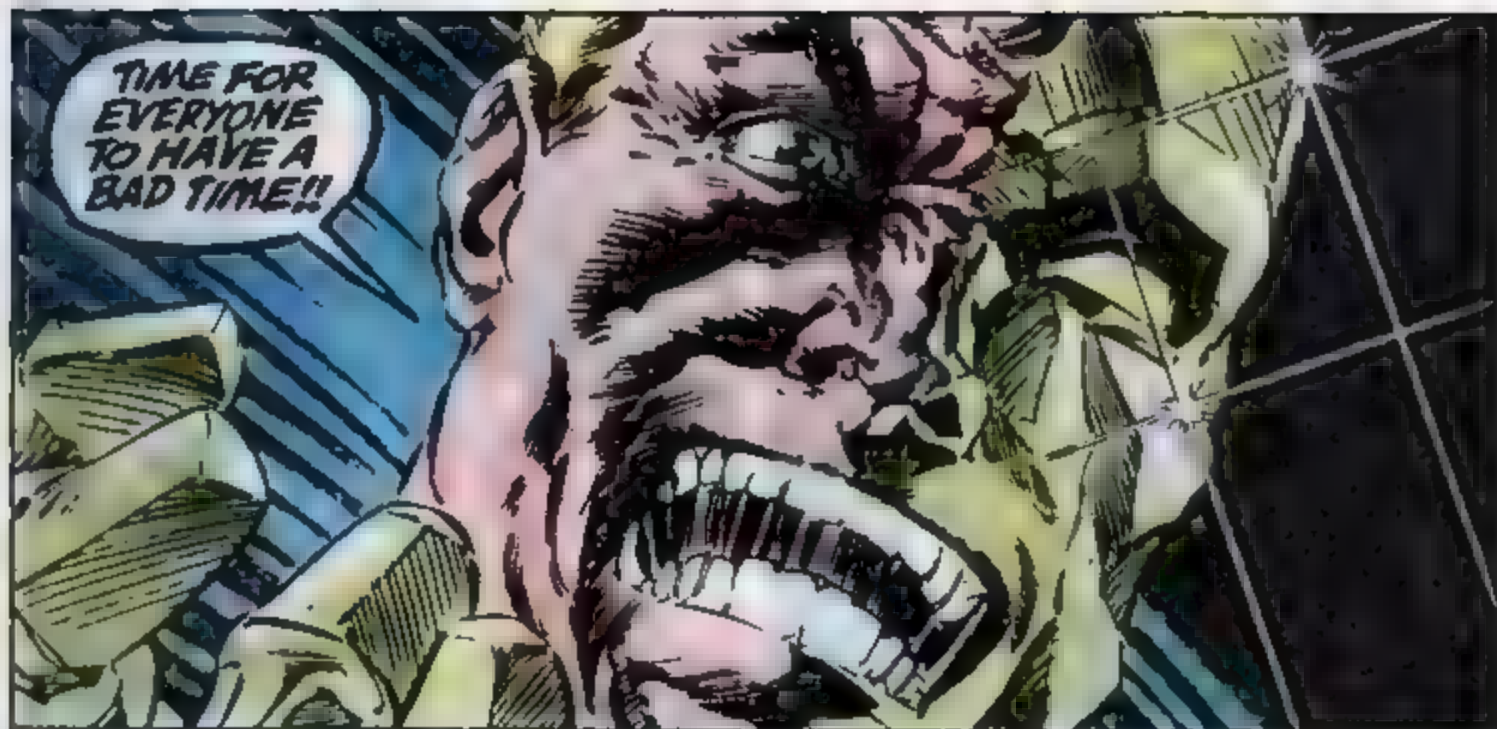
"THAT'S WHY I CHOSE TO REANIMATE YOUR FATHER'S DEAD BODY

"IT WAS MY ONLY OPTION "

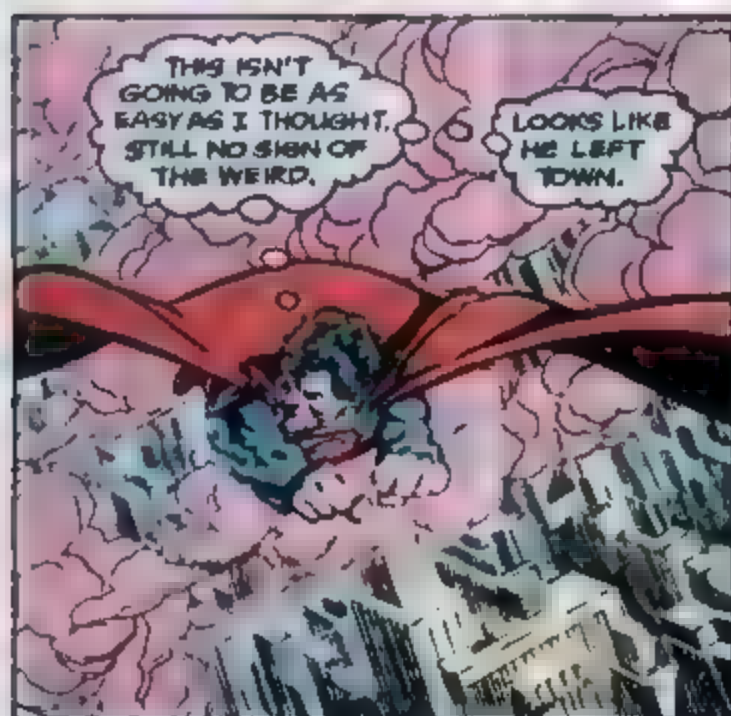








TIME FOR
EVERYONE
TO HAVE A
BAD TIME!!



THIS ISN'T
GOING TO BE AS
EASY AS I THOUGHT.
STILL NO SIGN OF
THE WEIRD.

LOOKS LIKE
HE LEFT
TOWN.

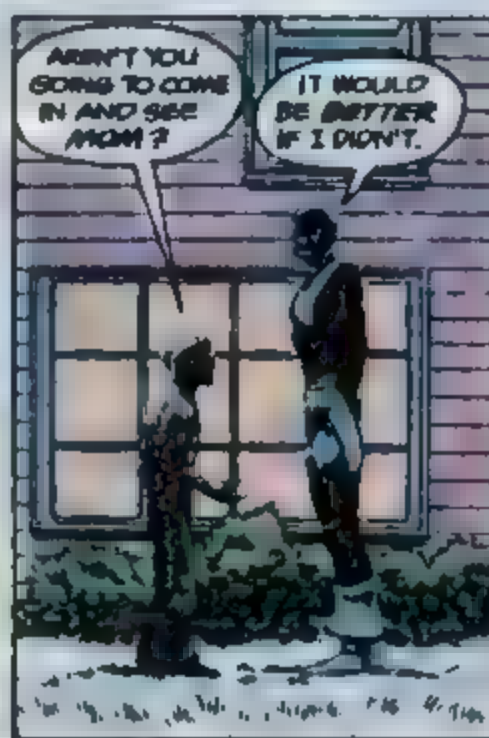


GUESS I'LL
HEAD NORTH.

CHECK OUT
THE SUBURBS.



WELL, WE
BEAT THE SUNSET
HOME.



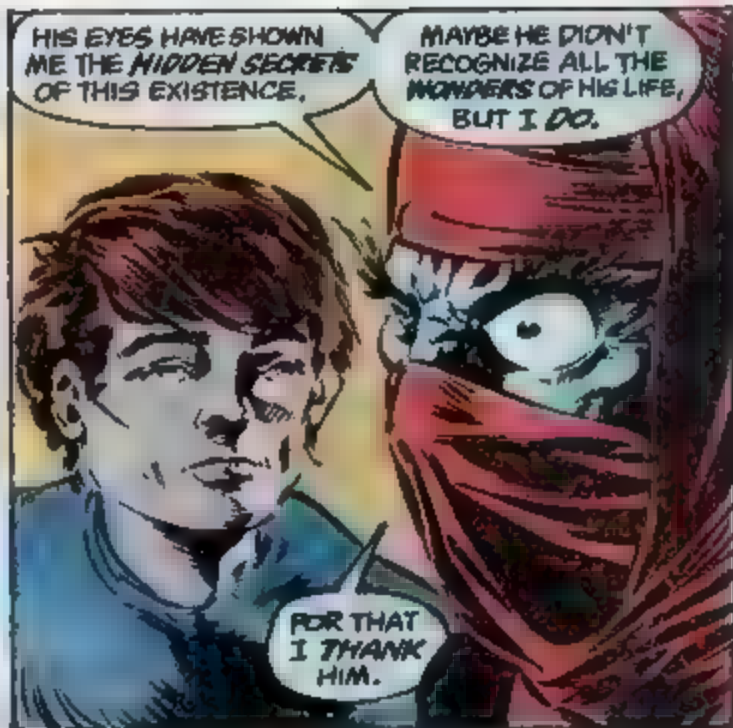
AREN'T YOU
GOING TO COME
IN AND SEE
MOM?

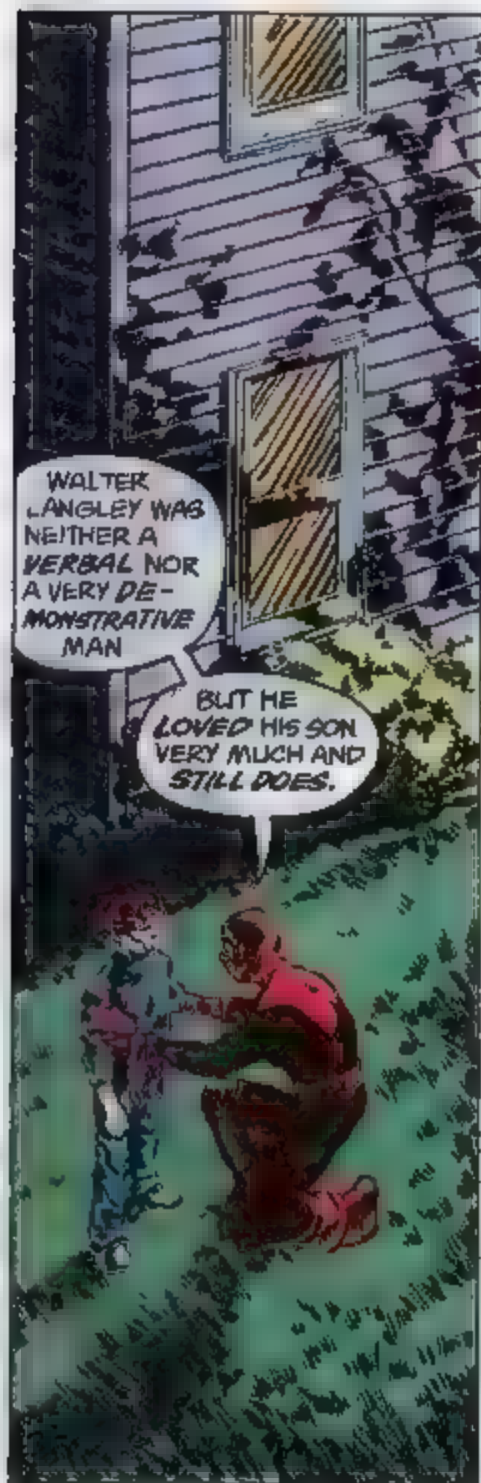
IT WOULD
BE BETTER
IF I DIDN'T.

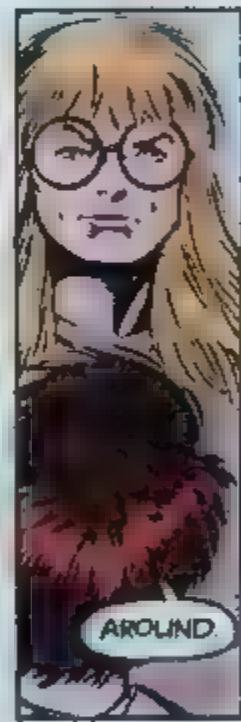
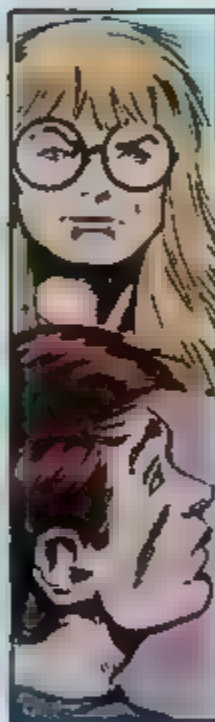
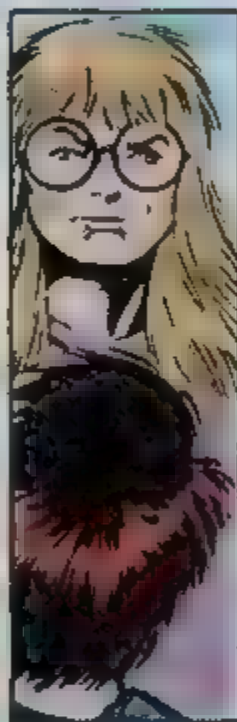
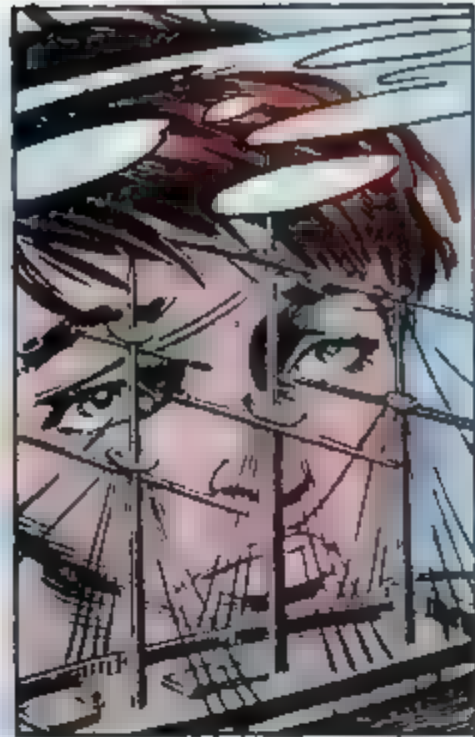
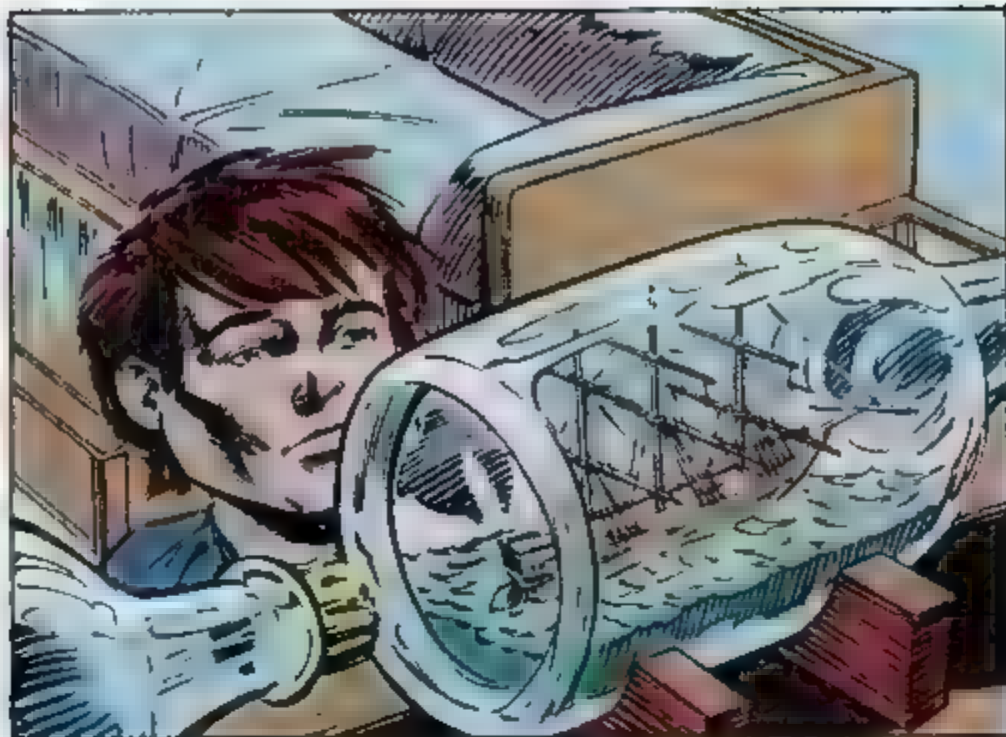


WHAT WILL YOU TELL
YOUR MOTHER ABOUT
THIS AFTERNOON?

I'M NOT SURE
MOM'S NOT TOO
TIGHTLY WRAPPED
SINCE YOU DIED





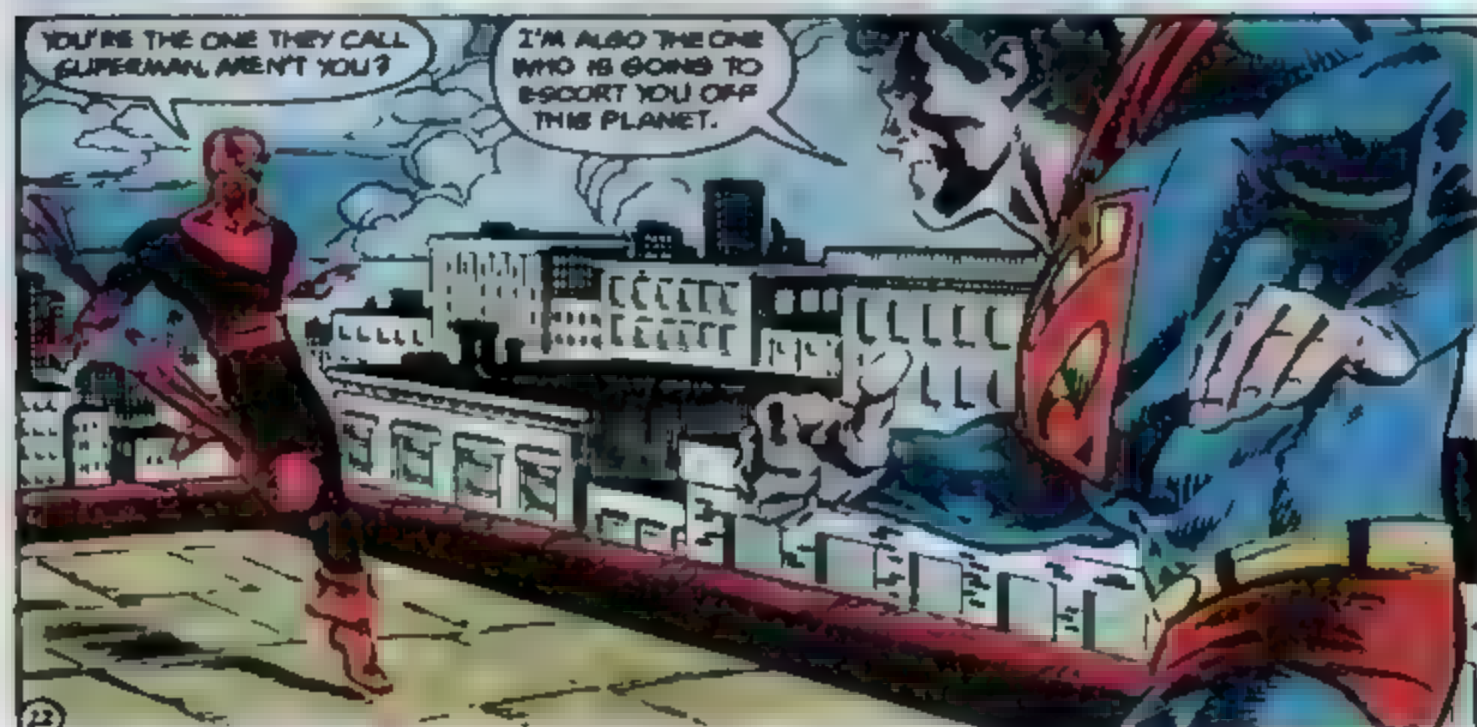
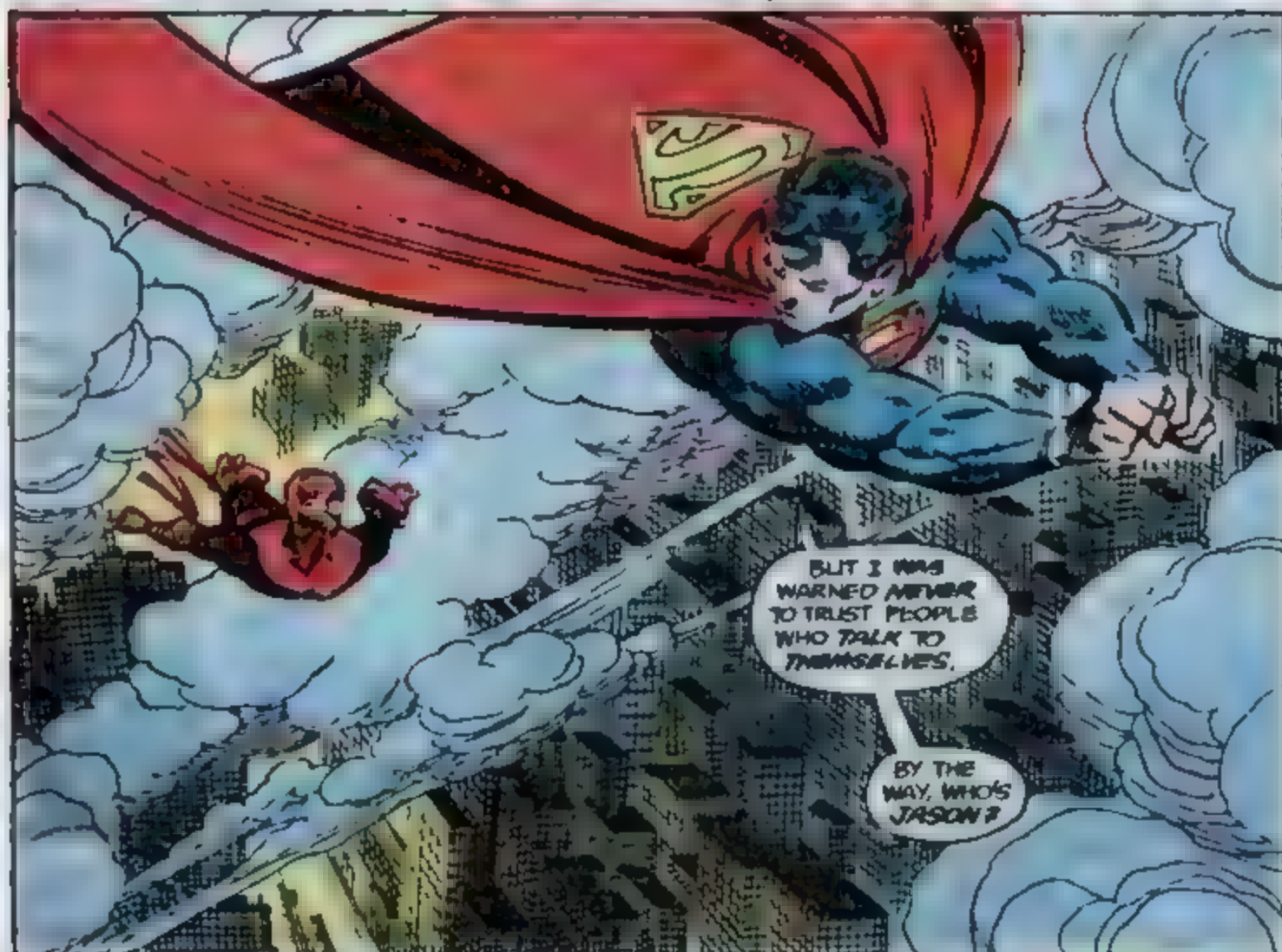


BUT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL HIM OF IT.



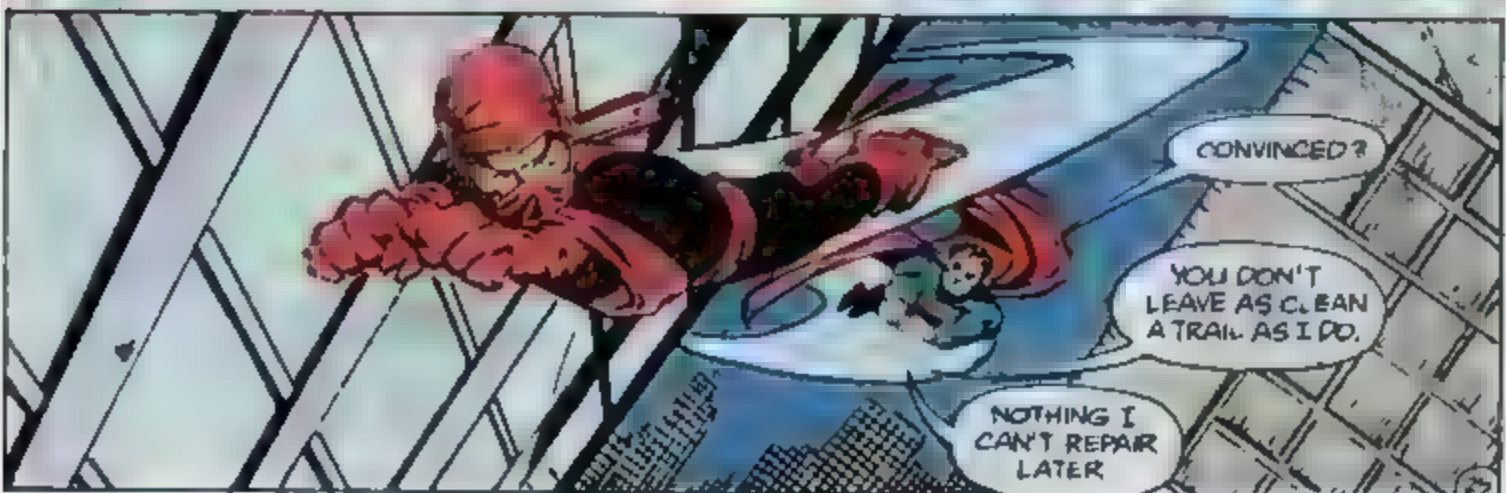
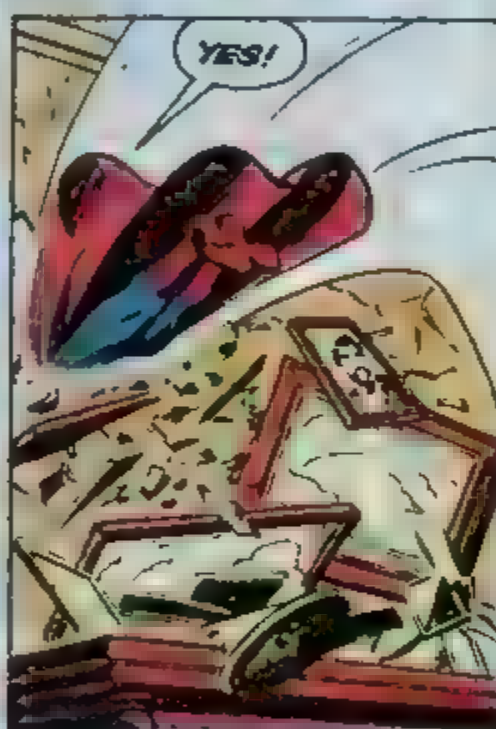
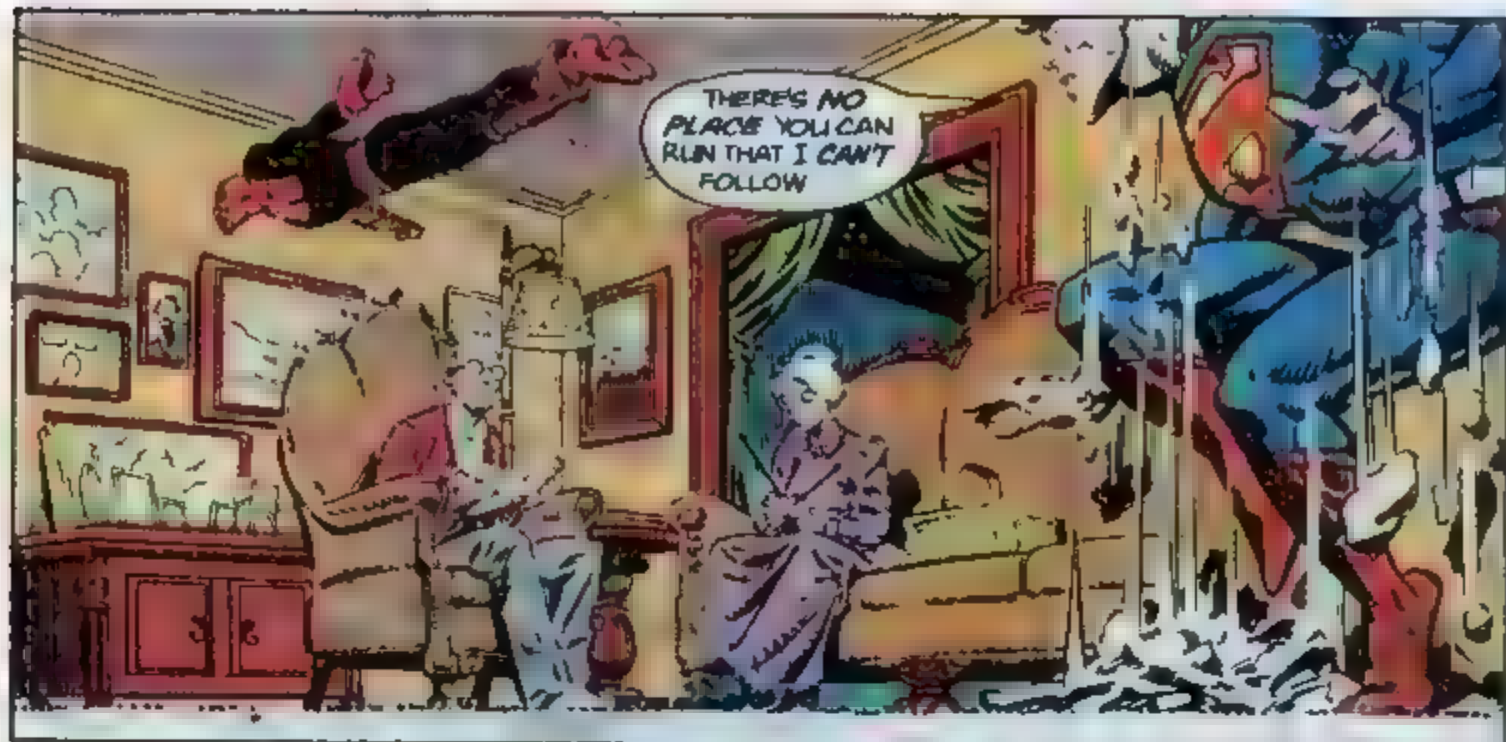
I'VE EXAMINED MY MOLECULAR STRUCTURE, AS I PROMISED THE BATMAN I WOULD.

THE BASIC COMPOSITION OF MY MOLECULES IS TERRIBLY UNSTABLE, A DREADFUL MISTAKE ON MY PART WHEN I RECREATED THIS FORM



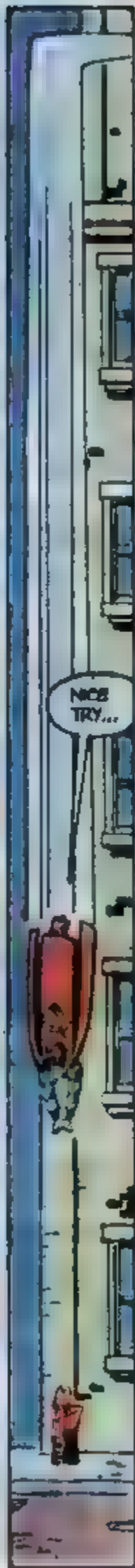




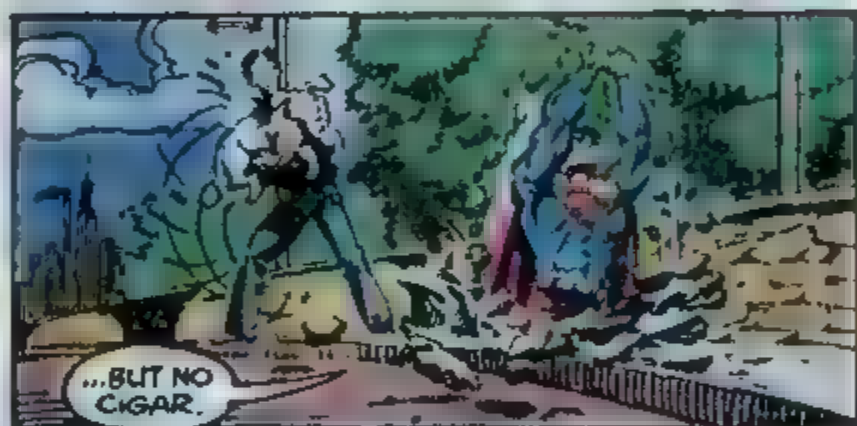
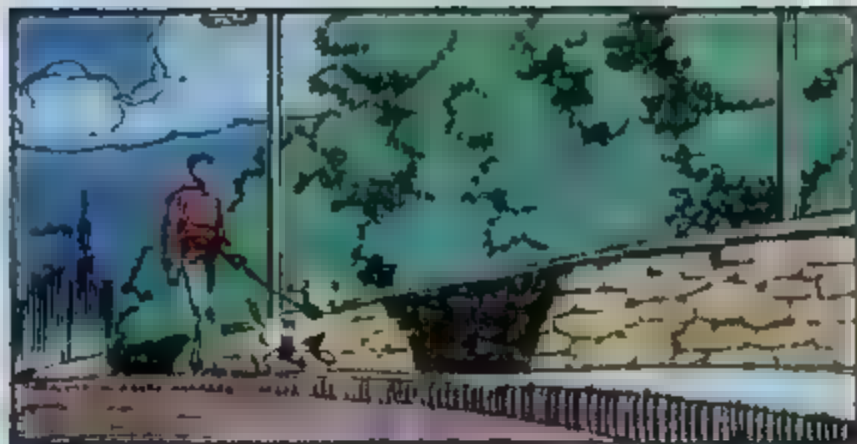




LET'S TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT THEN.



NICE TRY...

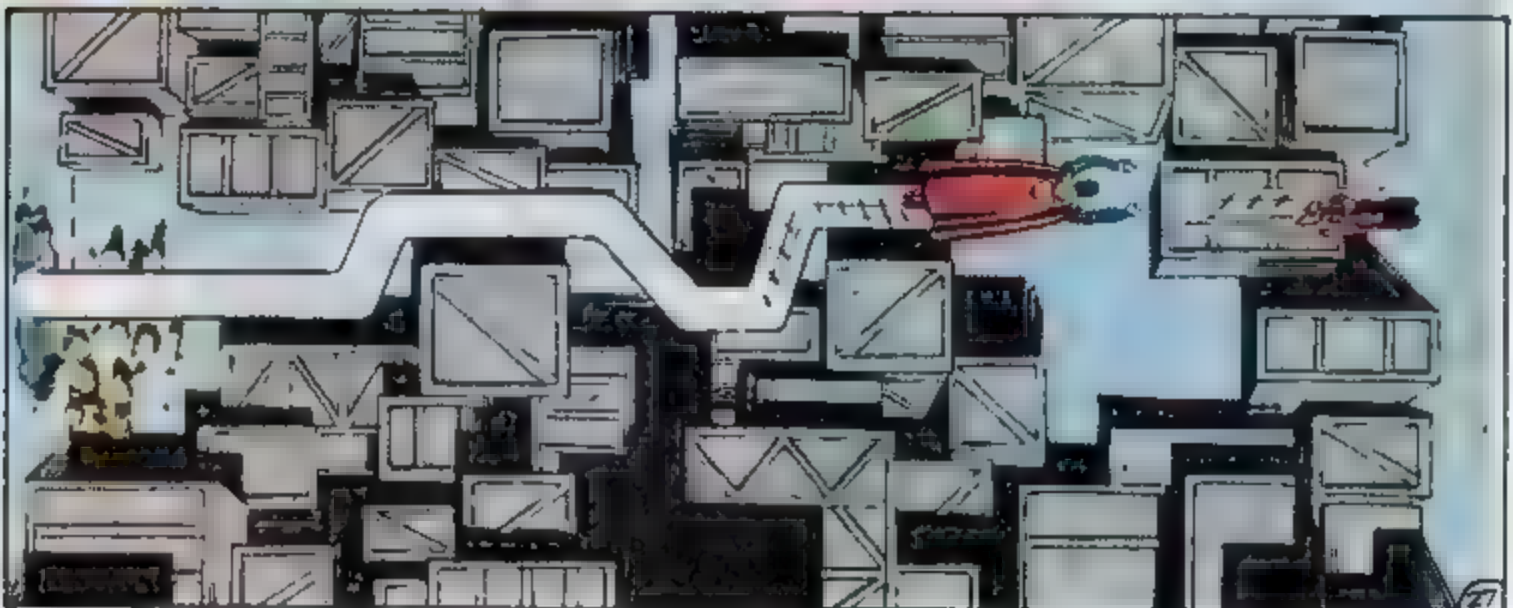
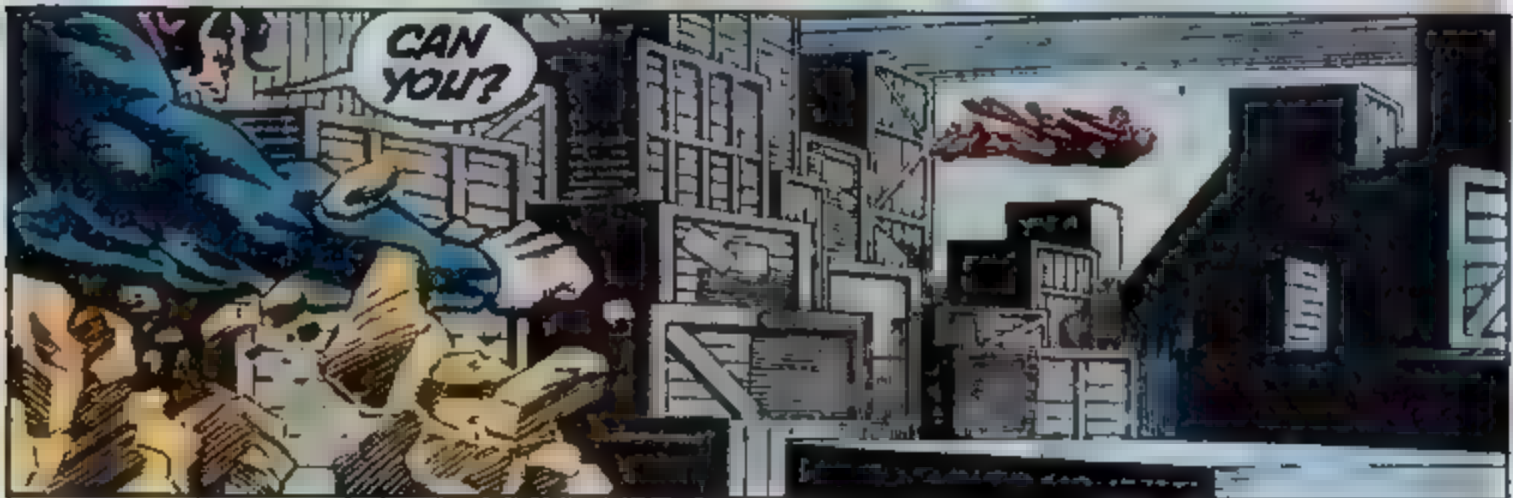


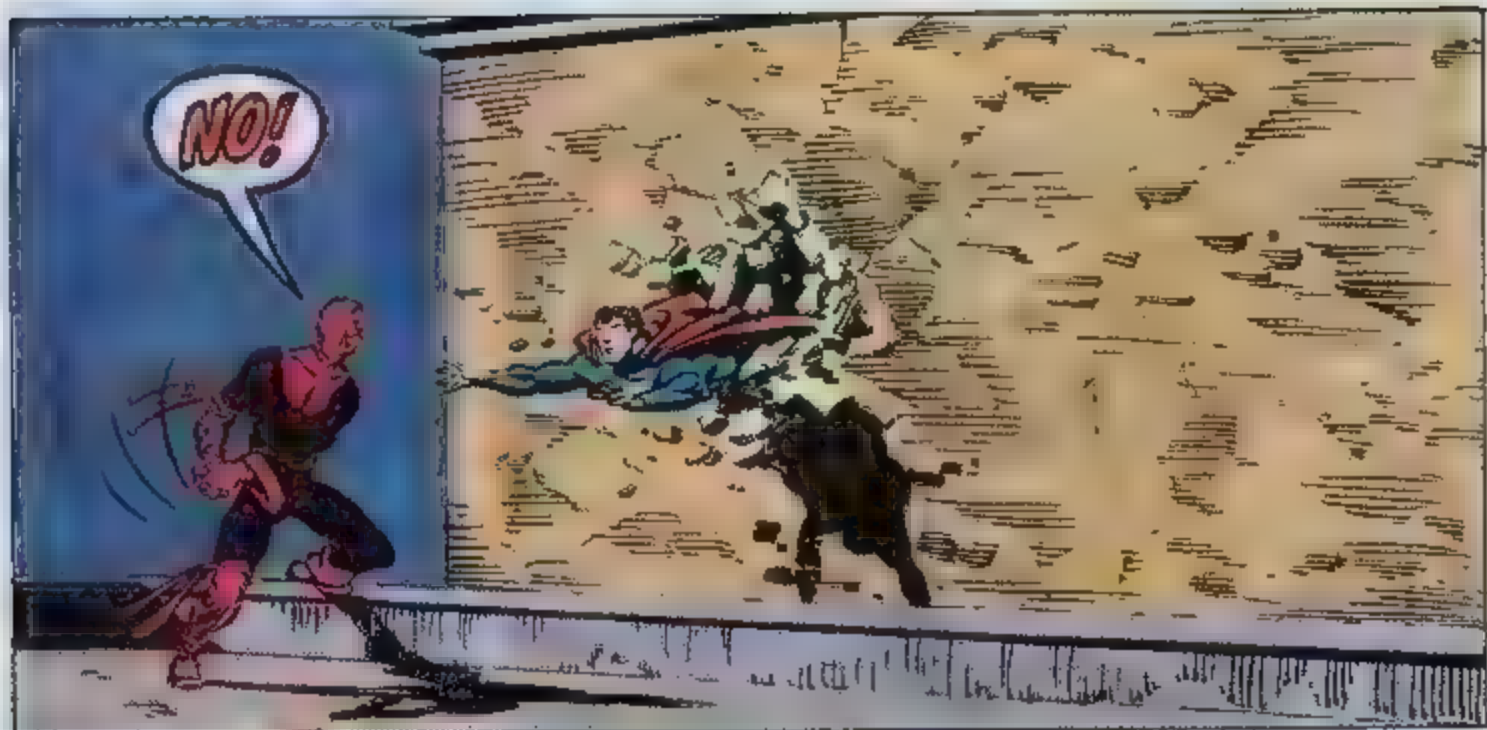
...BUT NO CIGAR.

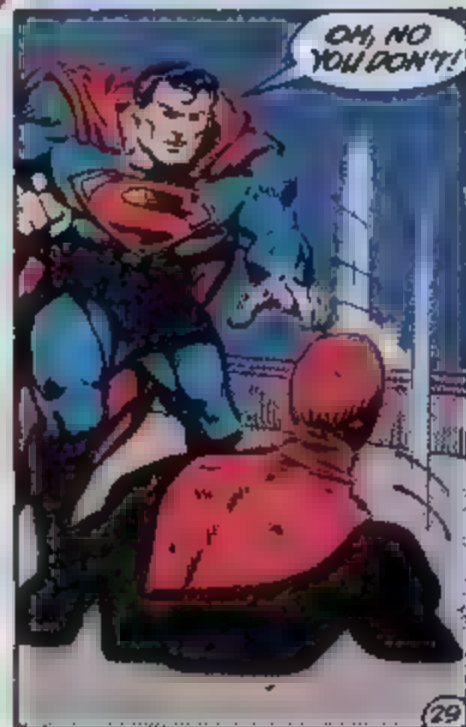
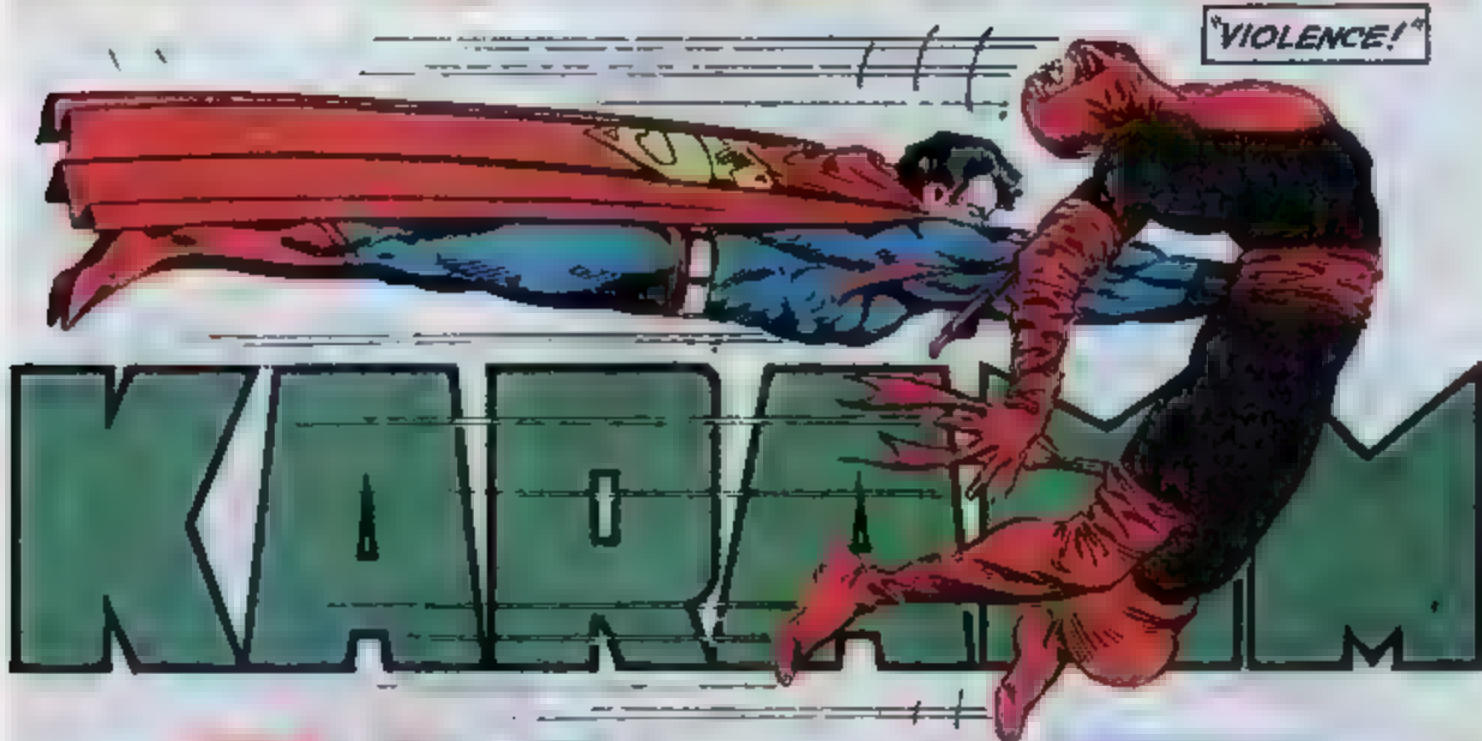
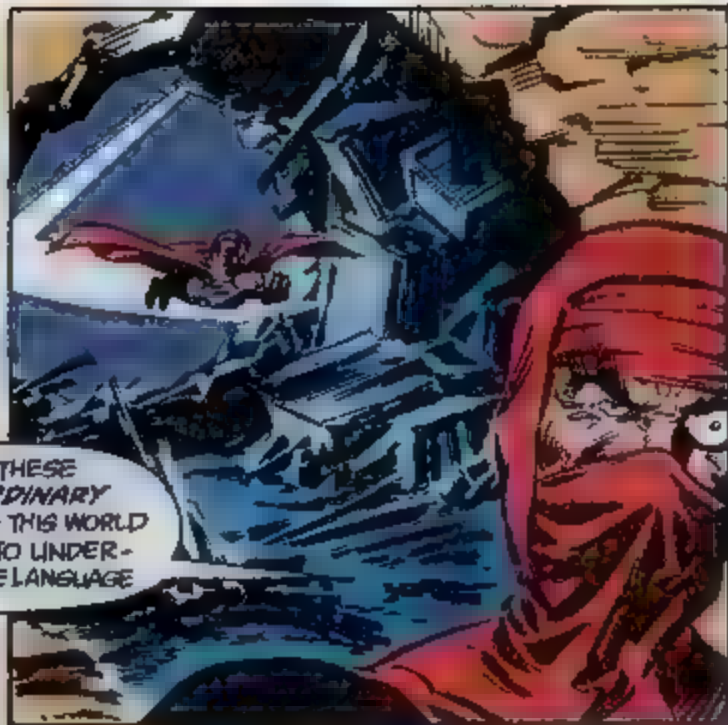
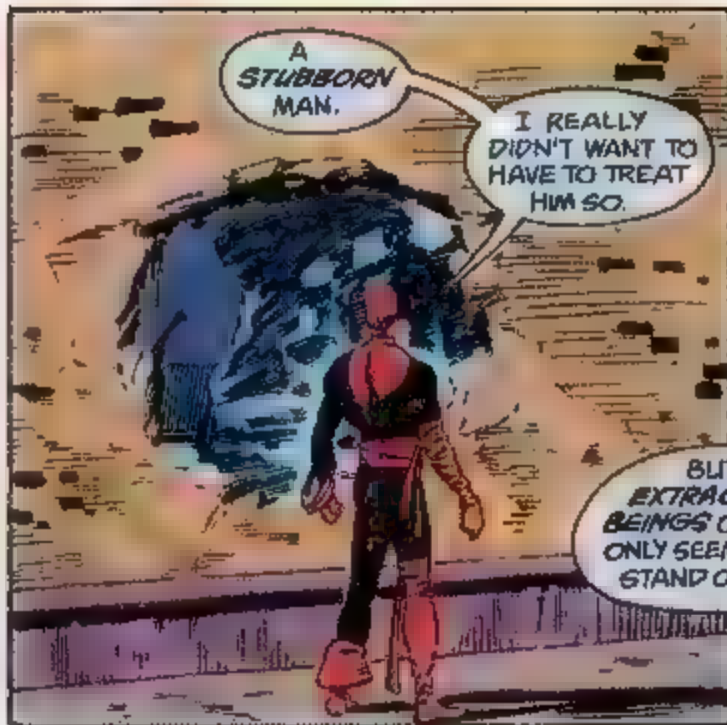


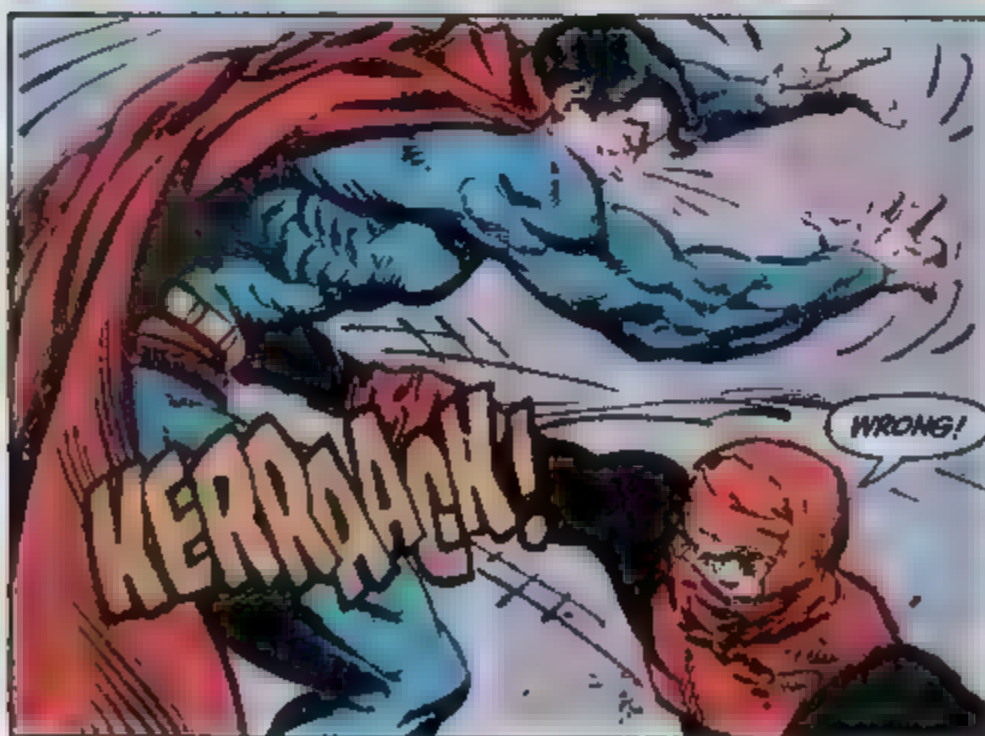
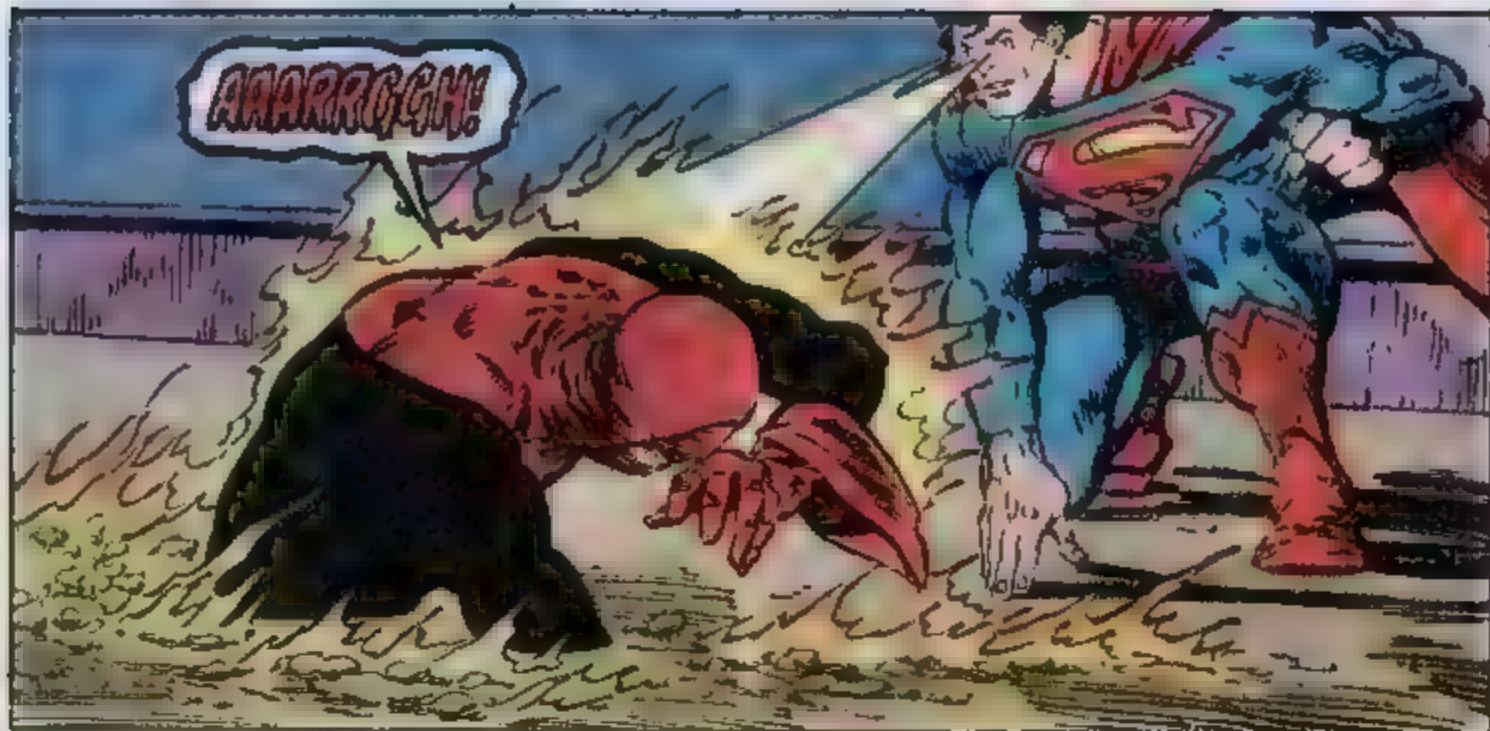
YOU WON'T LOSE ME THAT WAY AS LONG AS I HAVE MY X-RAY VISION TO TRACK YOU WITH.

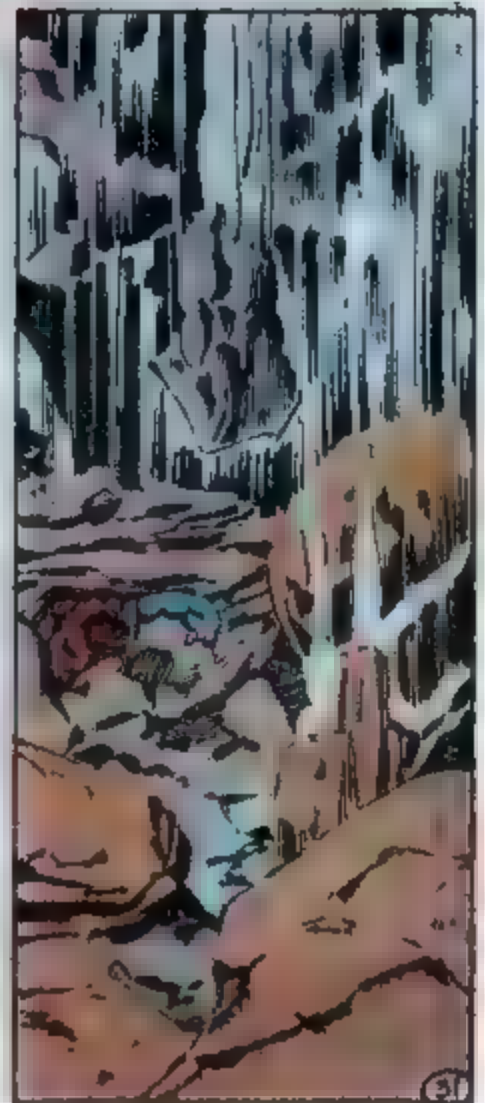
I CAN TELL BY THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES THAT'S UNWELCOME NEWS I FIGURED IT WOULD BE

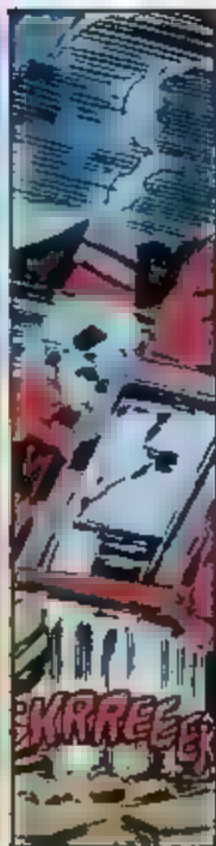
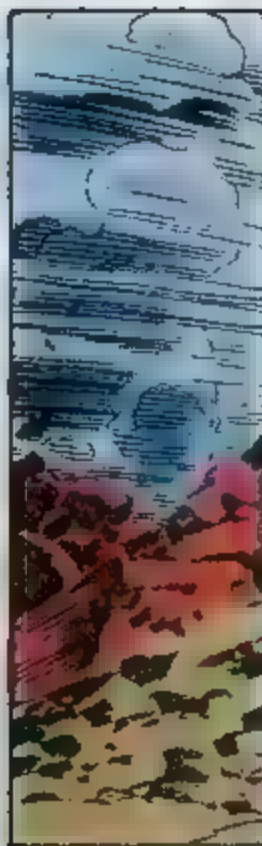


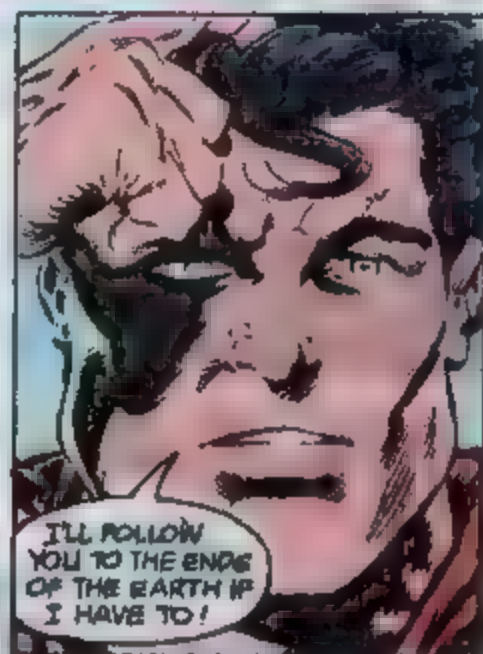
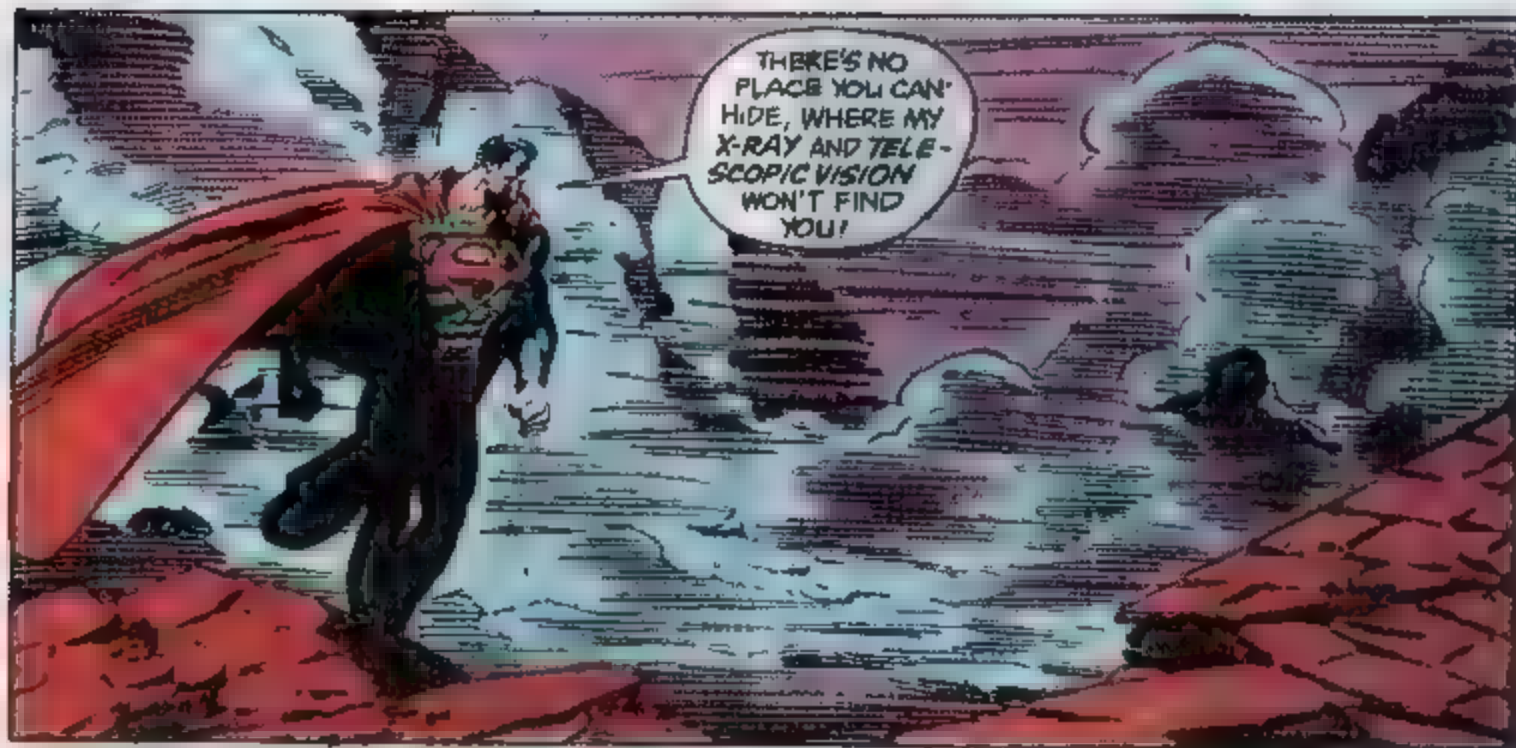


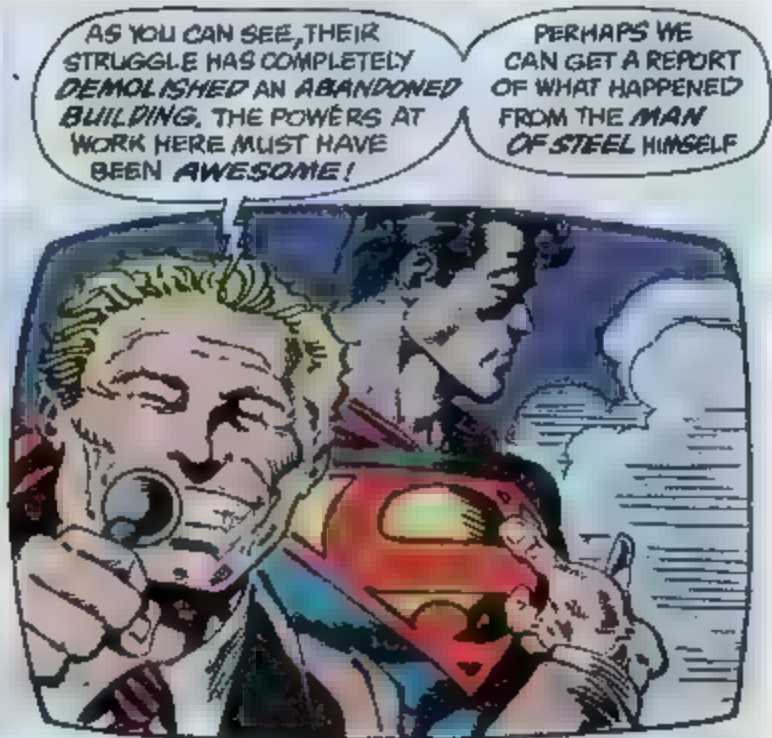
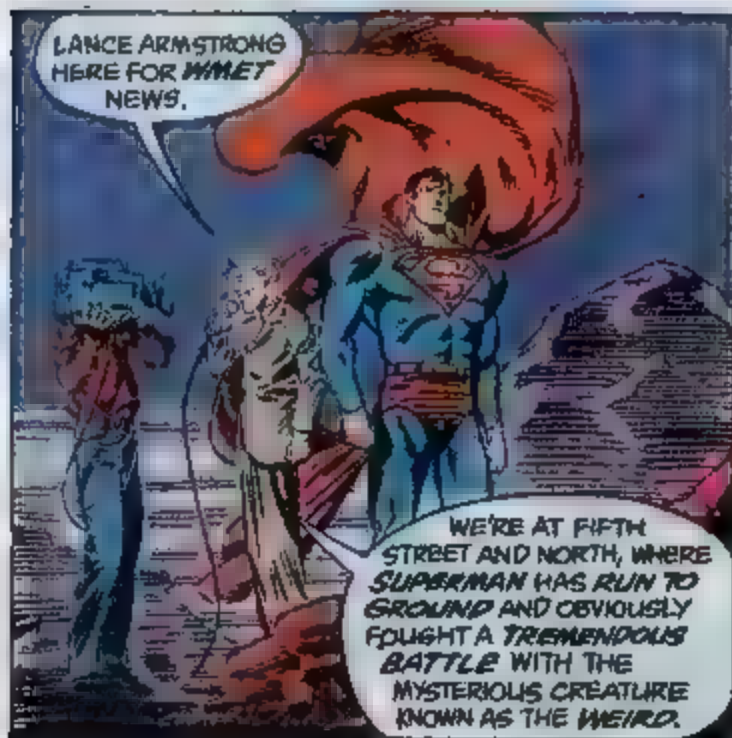












NO COMMENT





DON'T BE TOO ROUGH ON HIM WHEN YOU REPORT THIS.

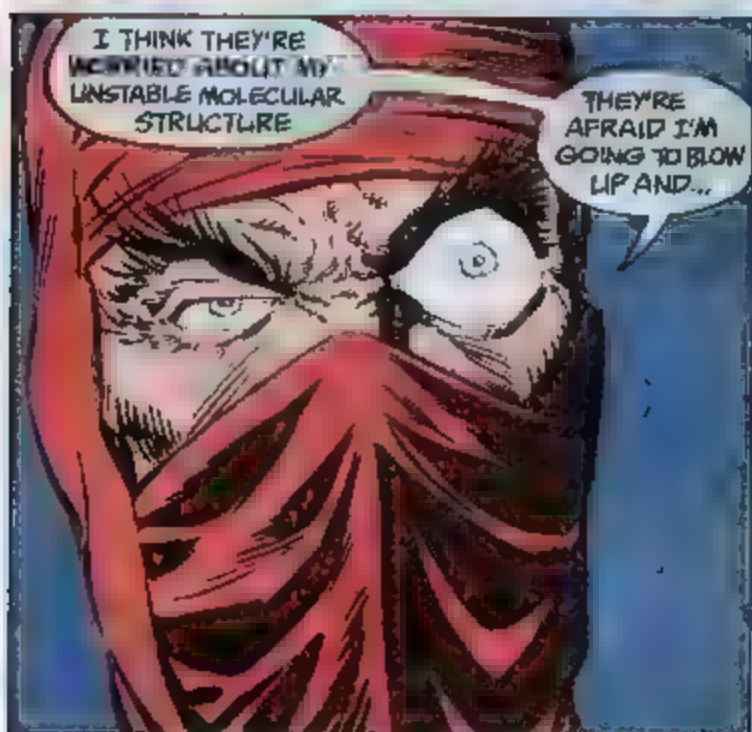
IF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE, WOULD YOU THINK TO LOOK UNDER YOUR OWN FEET?

PLEASE, WAIT!



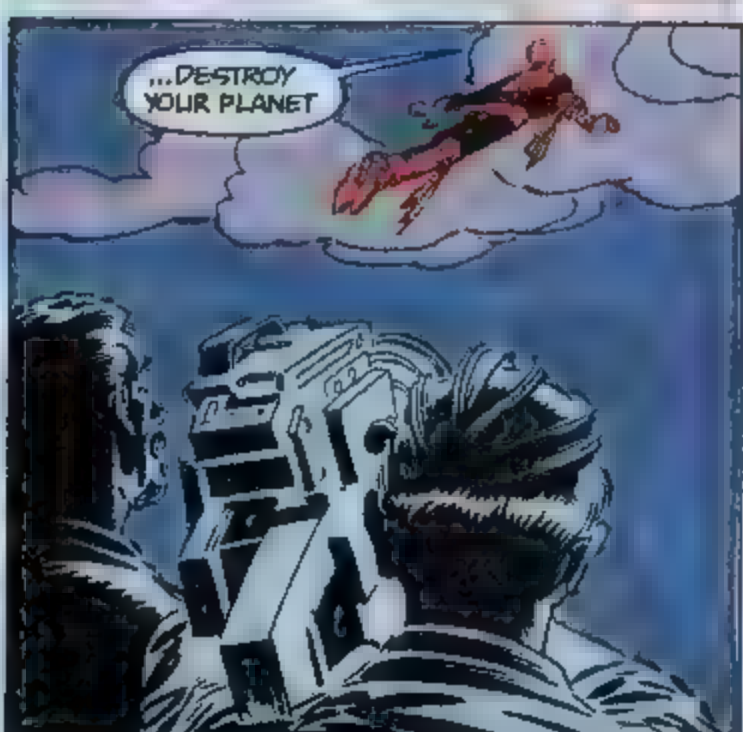
WHY ARE ALL THESE SUPERHEROES AND THE GOVERNMENT AFTER YOU?

I CAN'T GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER ON THAT QUESTION



I THINK THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT MY UNSTABLE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE

THEY'RE AFRAID I'M GOING TO BLOW UP AND...



...DESTROY YOUR PLANET

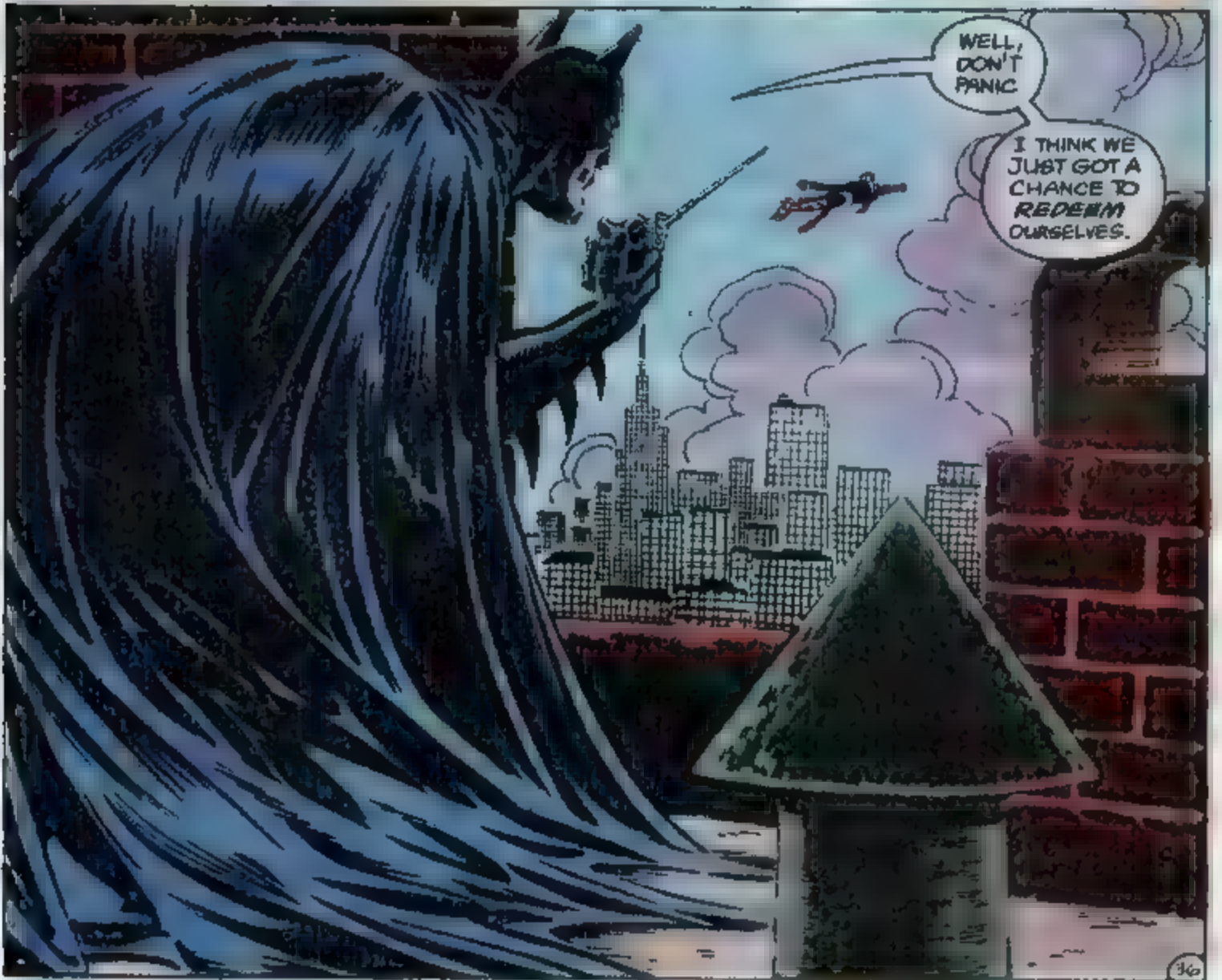
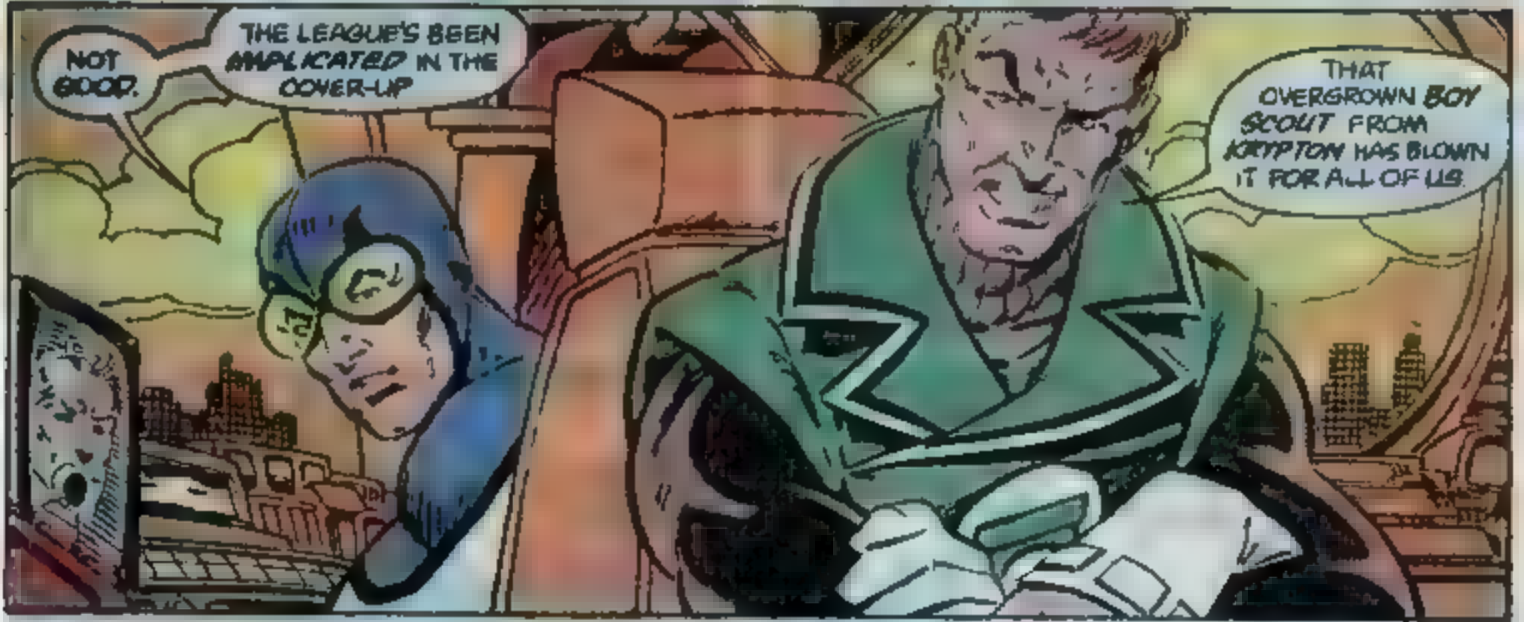


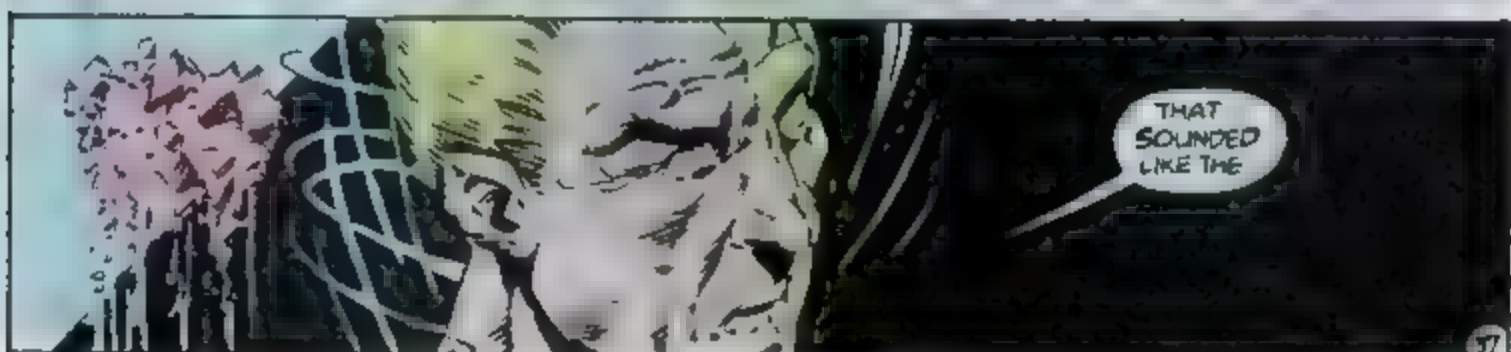
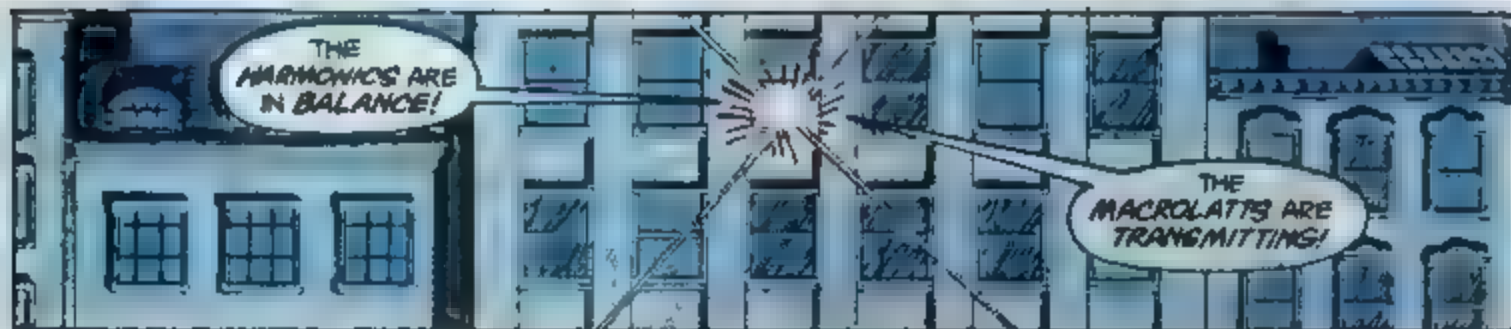
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT, FOLKS THIS REPORTER HAS UNEARTHED A MASSIVE COVER-UP BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, SUPERMAN AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

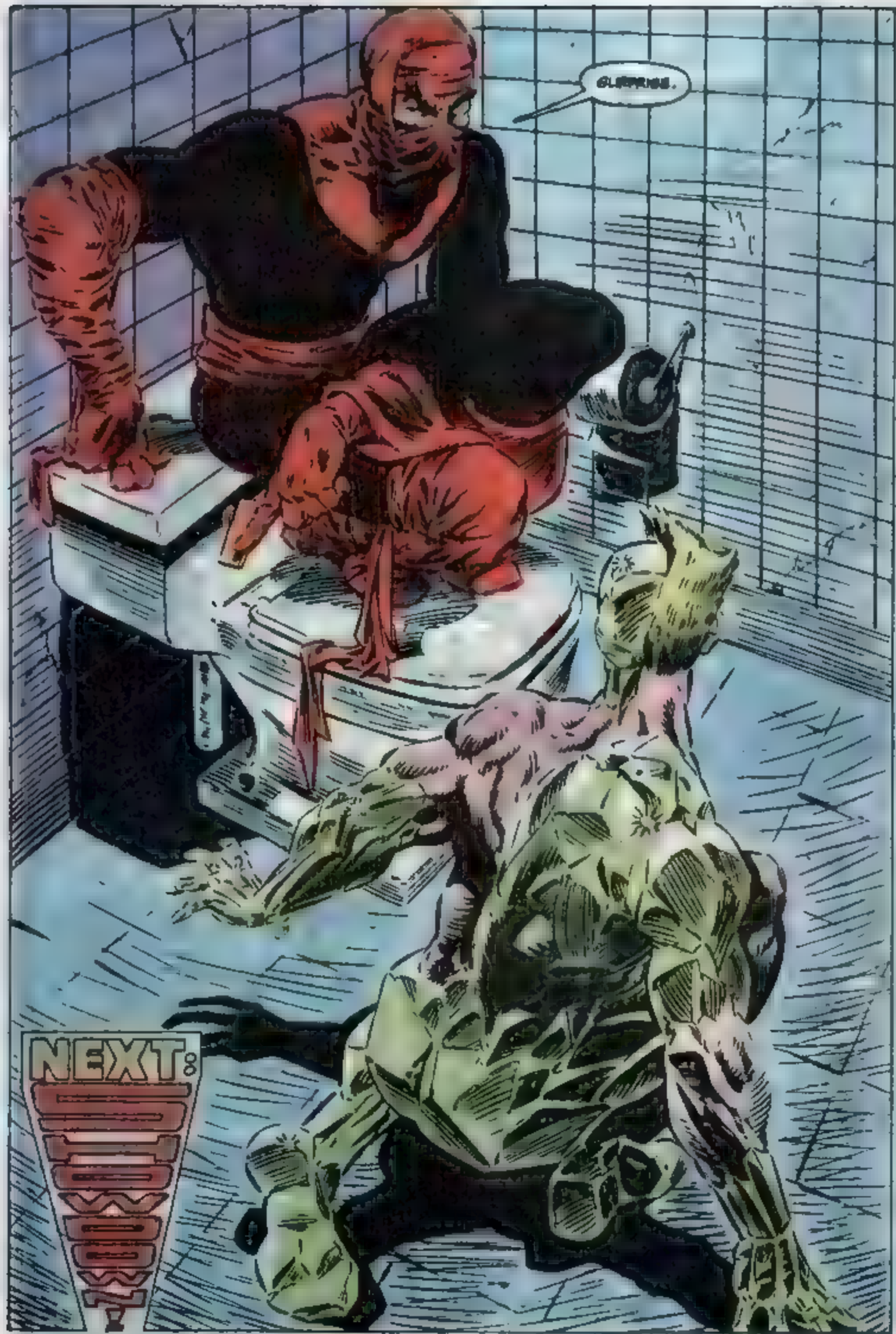
WELL, I FOR ONE THINK THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DANGER THAT THEY'RE FACING.

HAVEN'T WE ALL LEARNED YET FROM WATERGATE AND IRANSCAM THAT THESE DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS ALWAYS COME OUT IN THE END

I AM SICK AT HEART TO FIND NOW THAT SUPERHEROES HAVE ALSO TAKEN UP THIS ODIIOUS PRACTICE.







NEXT:

THE
FIGHT
BETWEEN
THE
TIGER
AND
THE
YOUNG
MAN

HIS NAME IS **BILLY LANGLEY**.
HE'S TEN YEARS OLD AND HE HAS
A **SECRET** THAT HE'S ABOUT
TO SHARE WITH HIS BEST FRIEND.

IT'S TRUE,
PTANG! DAD'S
NOT DEAD!

WELL, I GUESS
HE WAS DEAD... BUT
HE'S NOT ANYMORE!

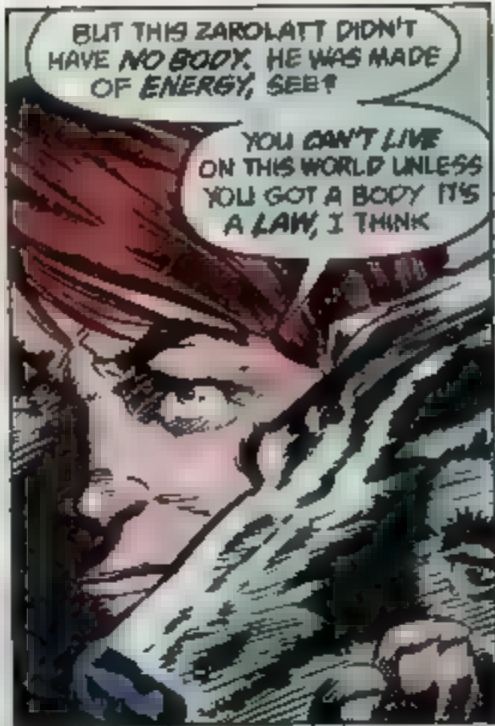
I ~~THINK~~
THIS MUST SOUND
AWFULLY
CONFUSING...

LET ME SEE IF I
CAN EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
SEE, IT'S LIKE THIS...



THERE WAS THIS CREATURE FROM ANOTHER *DIMENSION*, CALLED A ZAROLATT, WHO RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND CAME TO EARTH

HE WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM A BUNCH OF BULLIES CALLED THE MACROLATTS



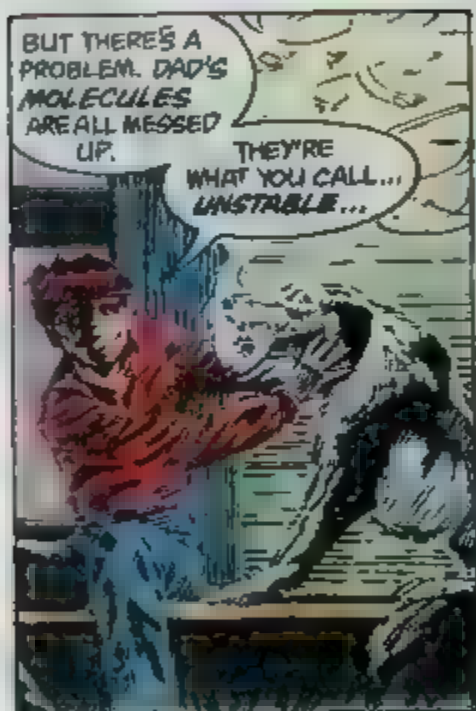
BUT THIS ZAROLATT DIDN'T HAVE *NO BODY*. HE WAS MADE OF *ENERGY*, SEE?

YOU CAN'T LIVE ON THIS WORLD UNLESS YOU GOT A BODY IT'S A LAW, I THINK



SO THIS ZAROLATT TOOK OVER DAD'S DEAD BODY, 'CAUSE POP WASN'T USING IT ANYMORE.

THEN THE ZAROLATT, WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE WEIRD, BECAME DAD, OR AT LEAST A PART OF HIM IS STILL DAD.



BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM. DAD'S MOLECULES ARE ALL MESSED UP.

THEY'RE WHAT YOU CALL... *UNSTABLE*...



EVERYBODY'S AFRAID DAD'S GOING TO BLOW UP...

BLOW UP AND TAKE THE WHOLE WORLD WITH HIM...



THAT'S WHY SUPERMAN, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, AND EVERYBODY'S AFTER HIM.

SNIFF SNIFF

THEY WANT DAD TO GO AWAY AND BLOW UP SOMEPLACE ELSE.



BUT DAD CAN'T TAKE OFF UNTIL HE FINDS THE JASON.

HE'S GOT TO STOP THE JASON FROM HELPING THE MACROLATTS GET TO EARTH



IF THE MACROLATTS COME HERE, THEY'LL TAKE OVER EVERYTHING AND THAT WON'T BE GOOD

BUT DON'T WORRY, DAD'S GOING TO SEE THAT WON'T HAPPEN.



I WONDER HOW DAD'S DOING?



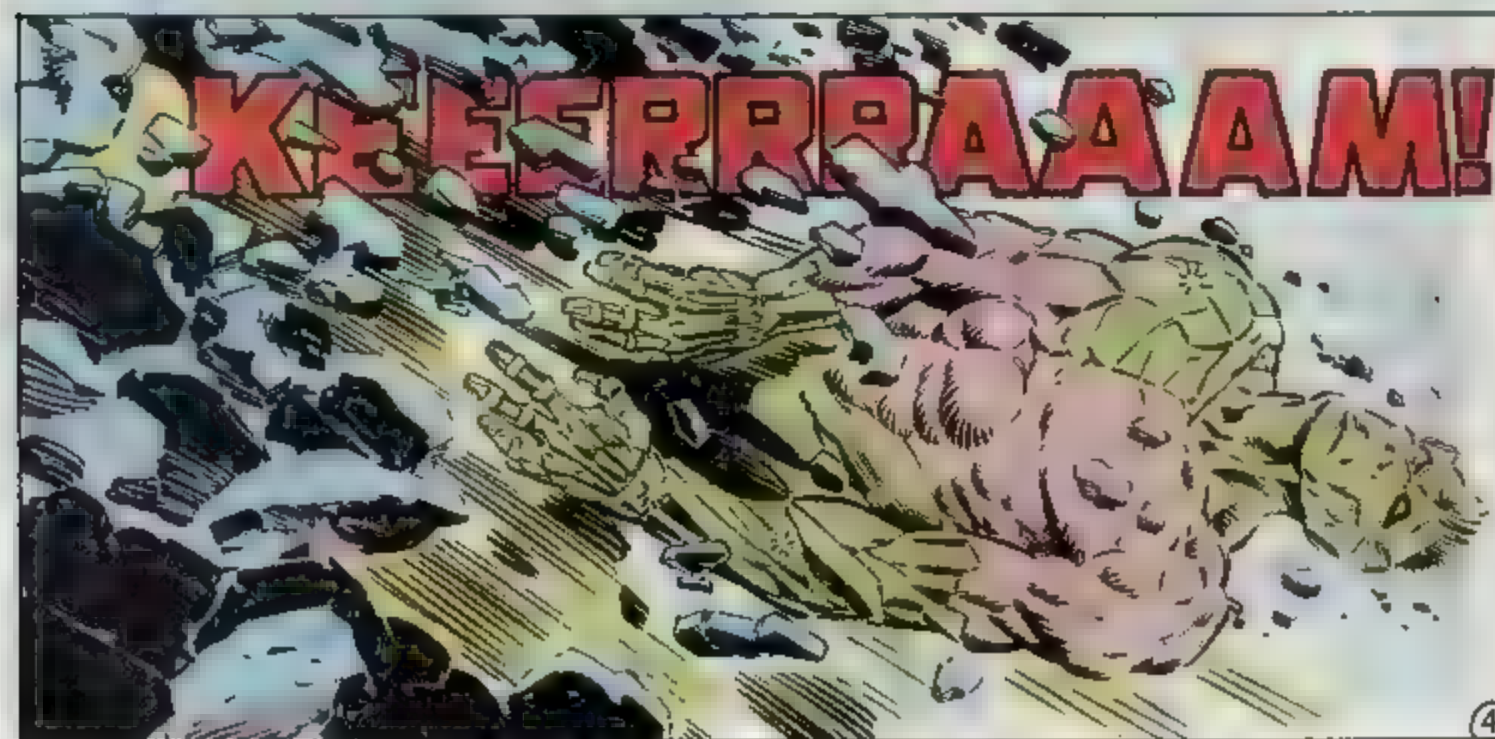
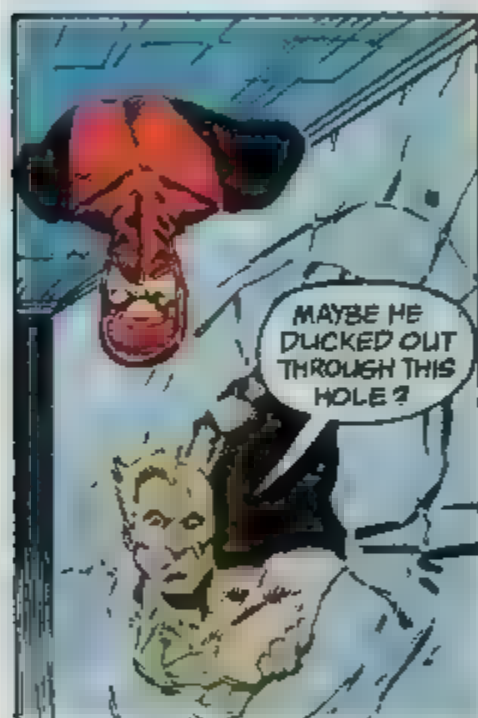
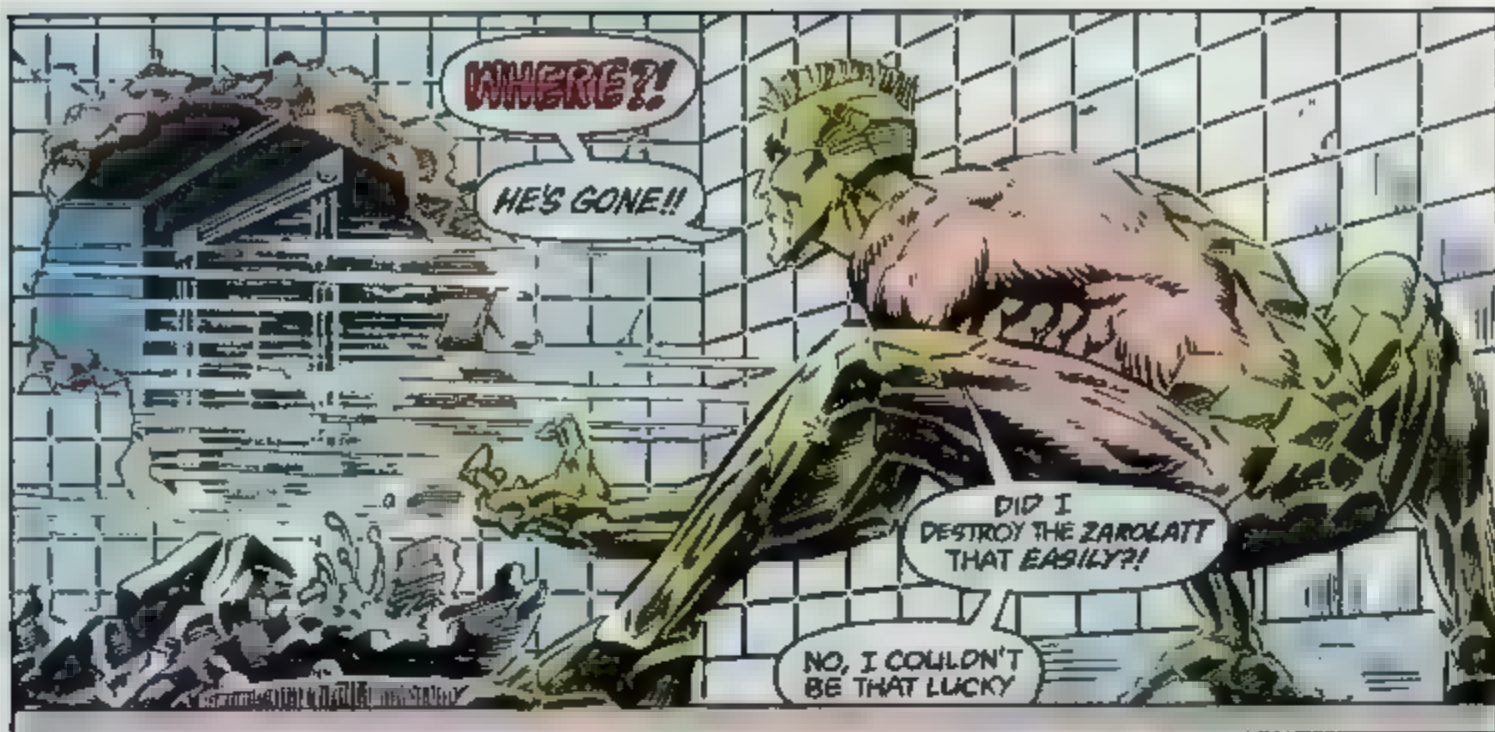
SEVERAL MILES AWAY IN THE HEART OF METROPOLIS, TWO COMBATANTS WAGE A WAR OF INTER-DIMENSIONAL IMPORTANCE. THEIR UNLIKELY BATTLE-FIELD IS THE BATHROOM OF ONE JASON MORGAN, BETTER KNOWN TO BILLY AS THE TRAITOROUS JASON. THE CRYSTALLINE VILLAIN'S OPPONENT IS BILLY'S FATHER...

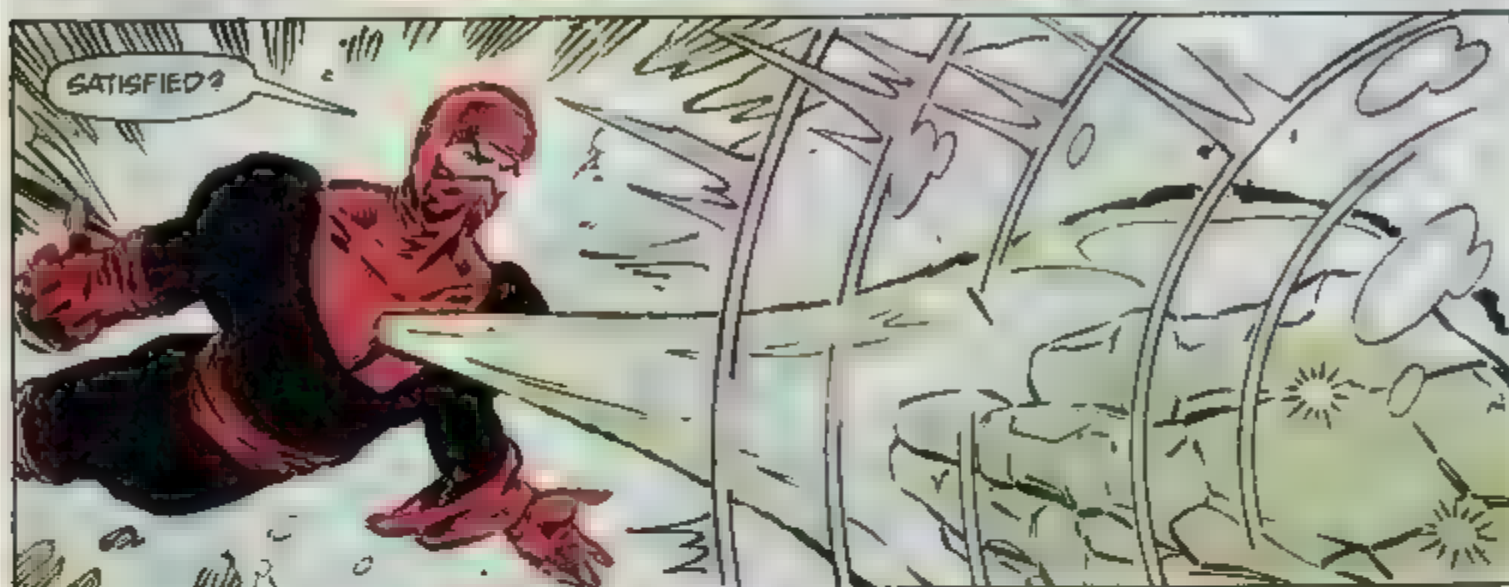
DIE,
YOU INFERNAL
ZAROLATT
NUISANCE!

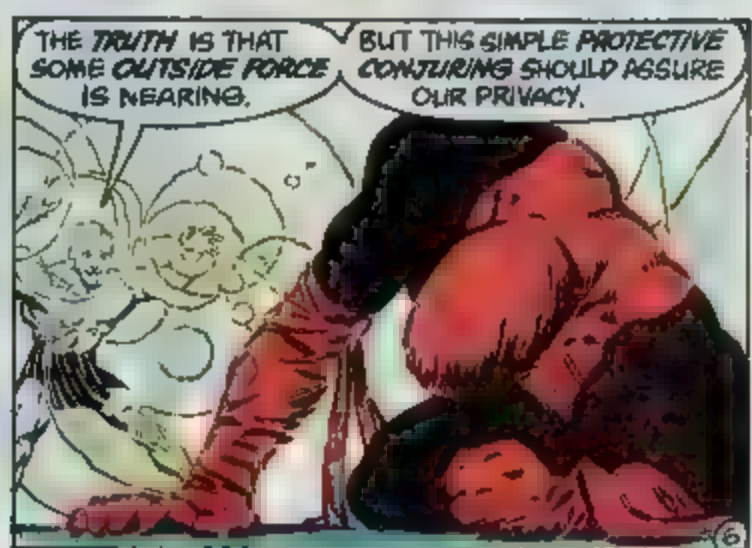
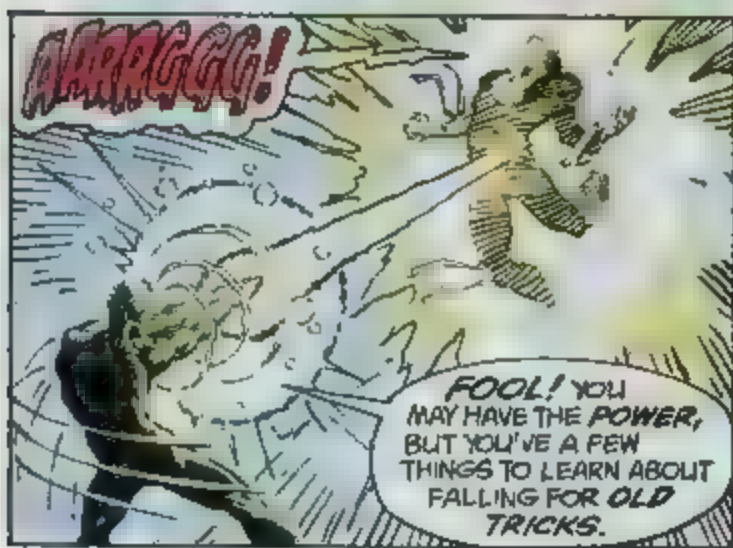
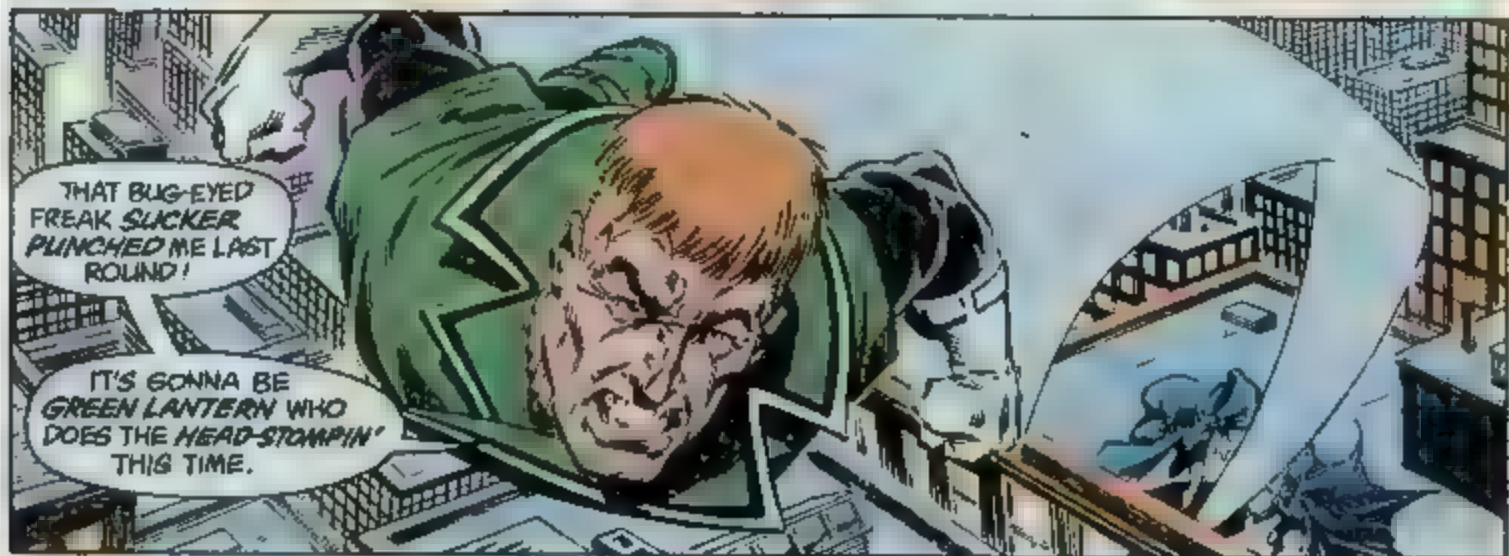
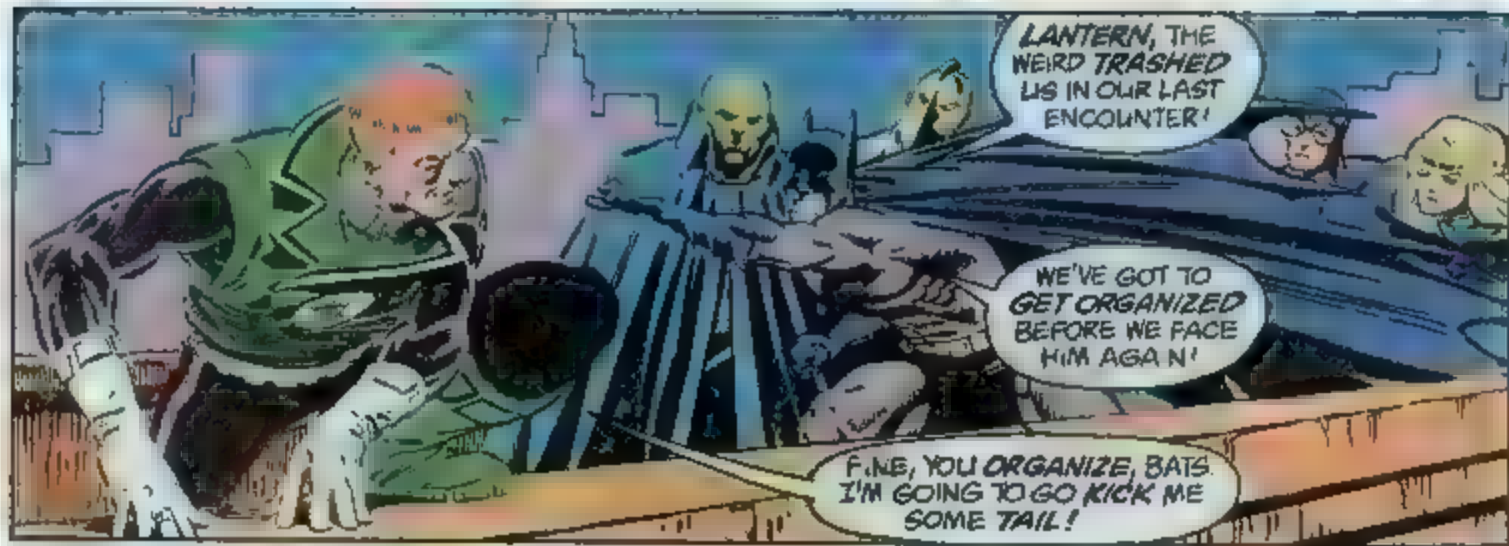
TWO BEINGS OF IMMENSE POWERS ARE PITTED AGAINST EACH OTHER IN MORTAL COMBAT. THE PRIZE THEY FIGHT FOR IS A LUSH GREEN PLANET CALLED *PARADISE*. IT IS A TIME FOR...

CONFRONTATION!

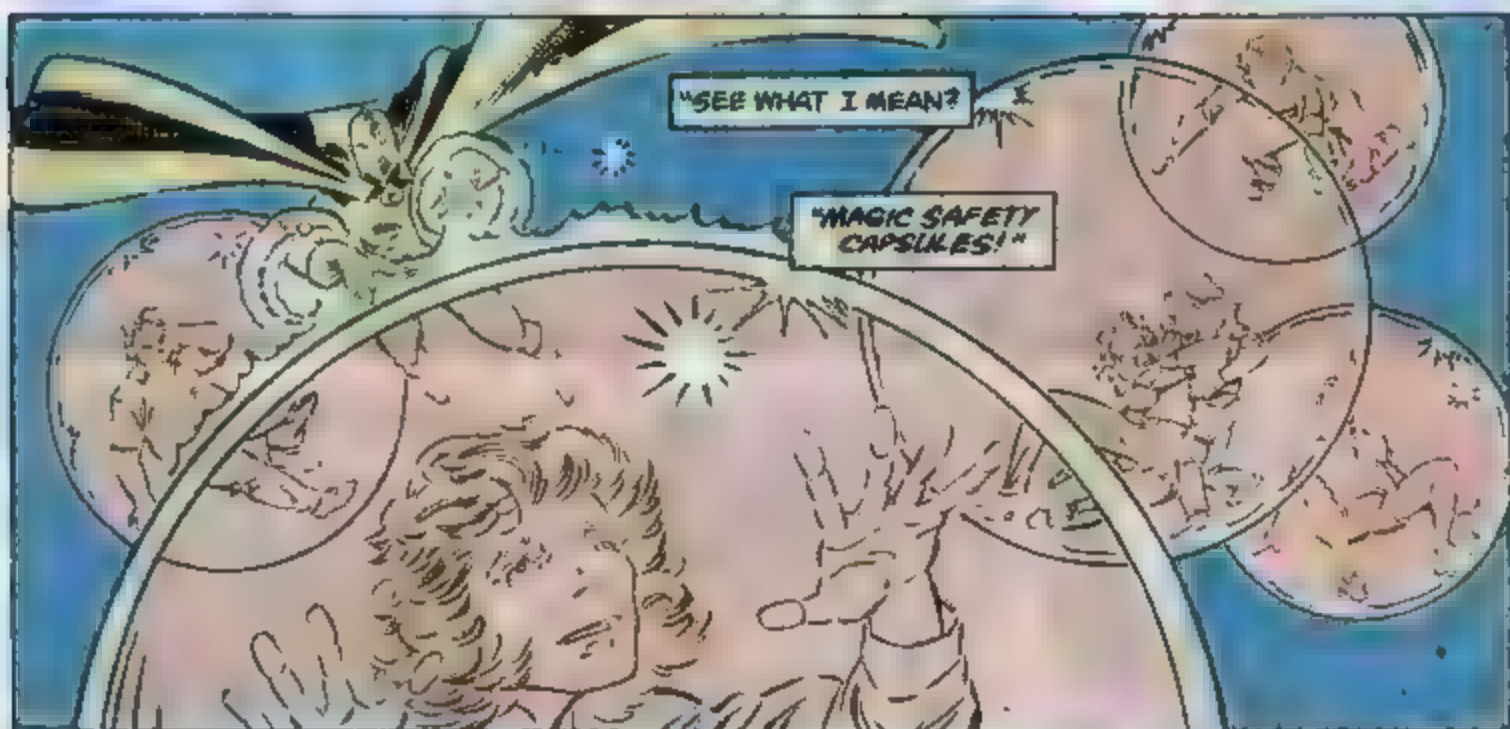
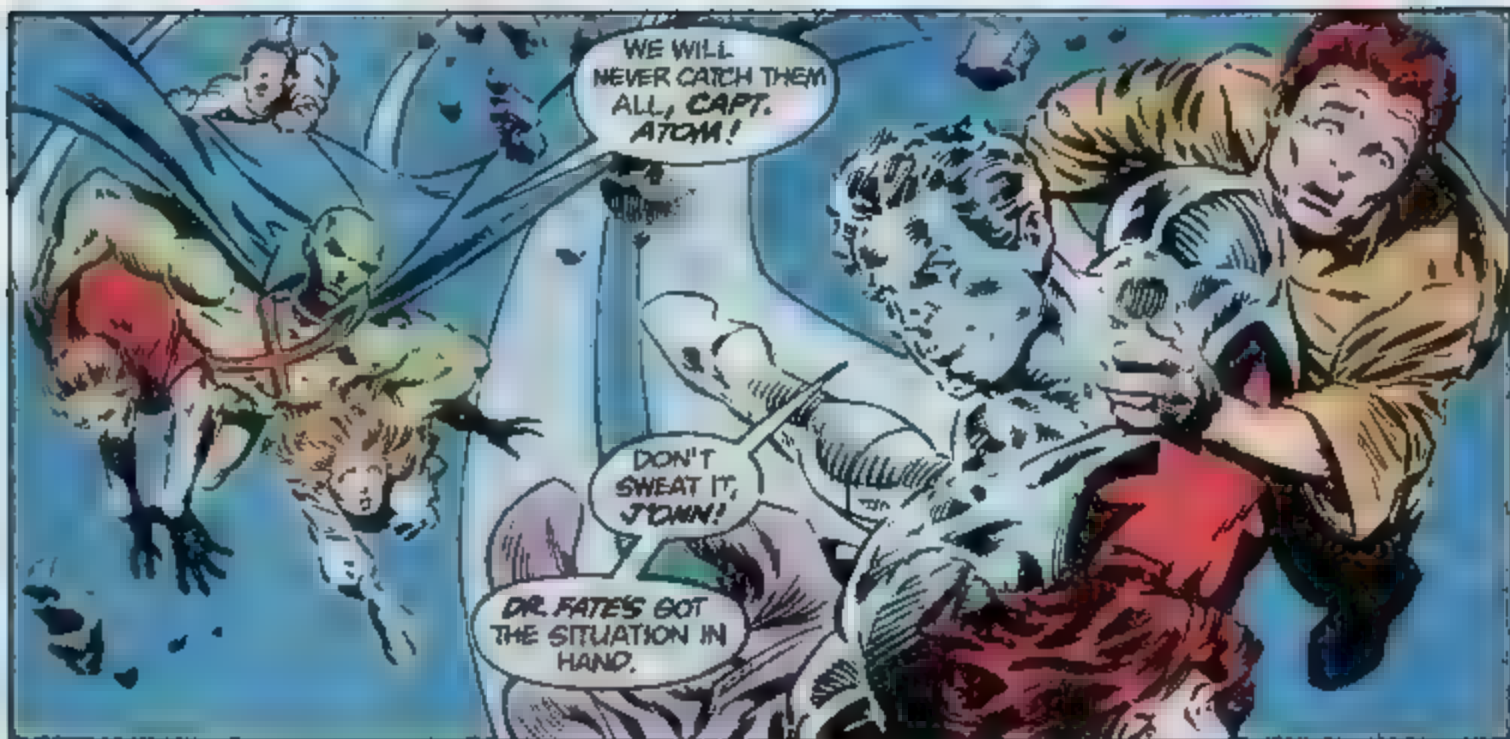
A STARLIN-WRIGHTSON-GREEN-KLEIN-WRIGHTSON-BERGER PRODUCTION

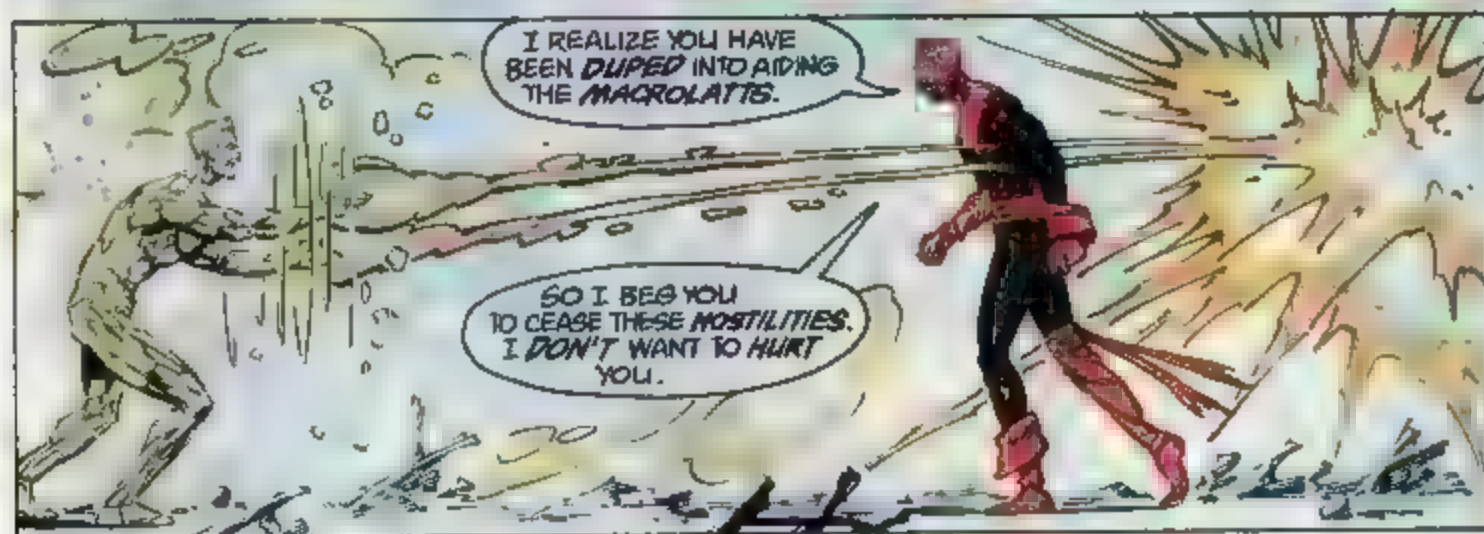
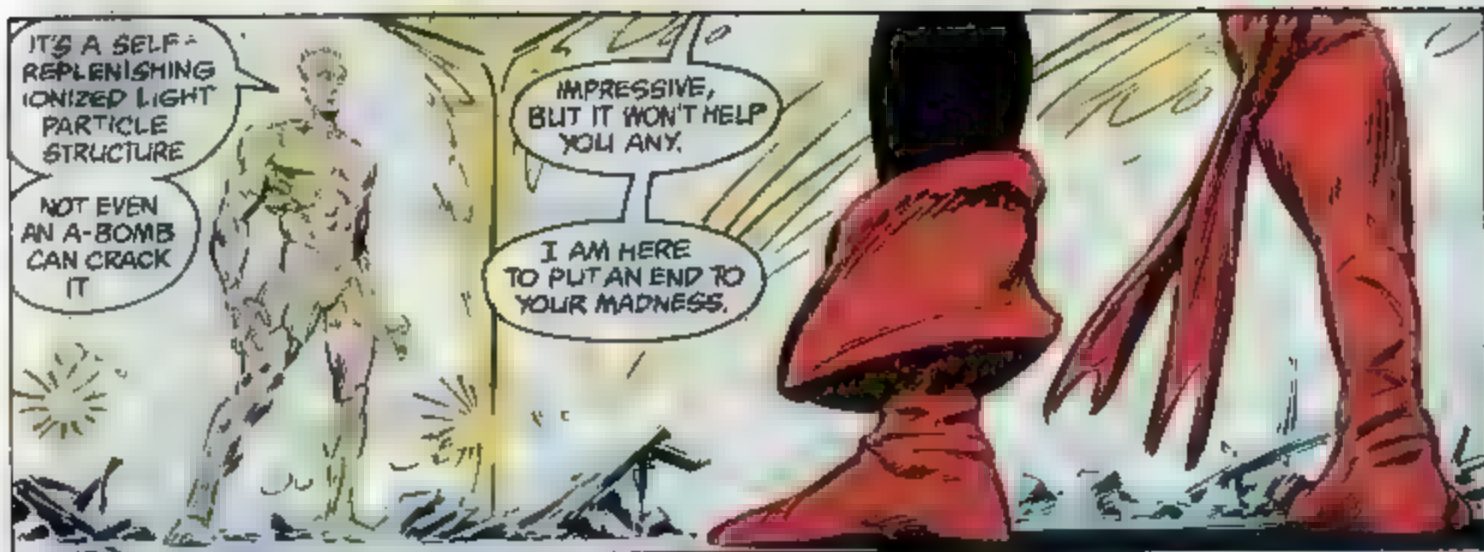


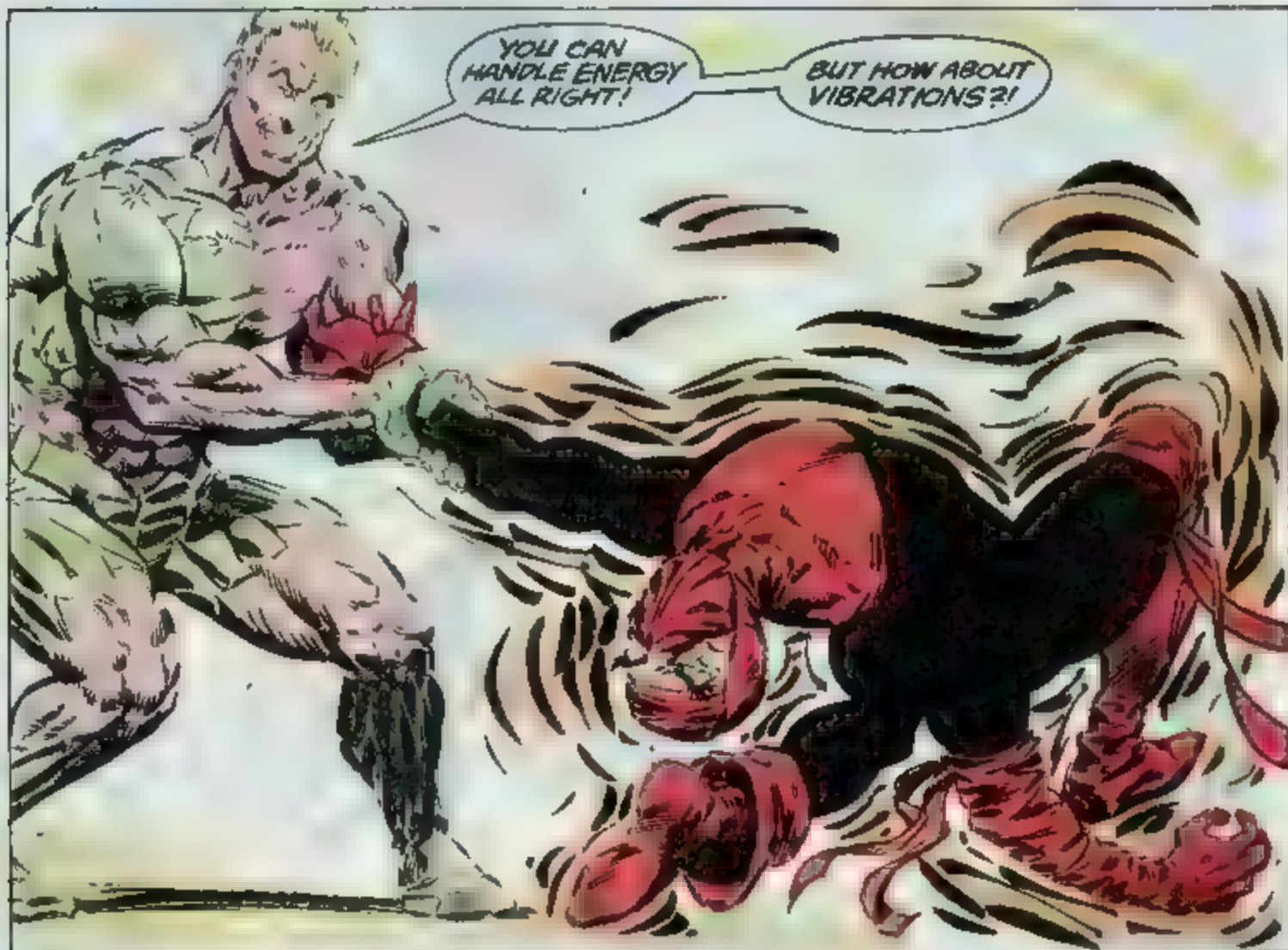












YOU CAN
HANDLE ENERGY
ALL RIGHT!

BUT HOW ABOUT
VIBRATIONS?!



I USED MY POWERS TO
VIBRATE THE MOLECULES
OF AIR AROUND YOU...

..THUS CHANGING
MY ENERGY FLOW INTO
A SURPRISE PHYSICAL
ASSAULT, WHICH YOU
COULD NEITHER AFFECT
NOR DEFEND YOURSELF
FROM IN TIME



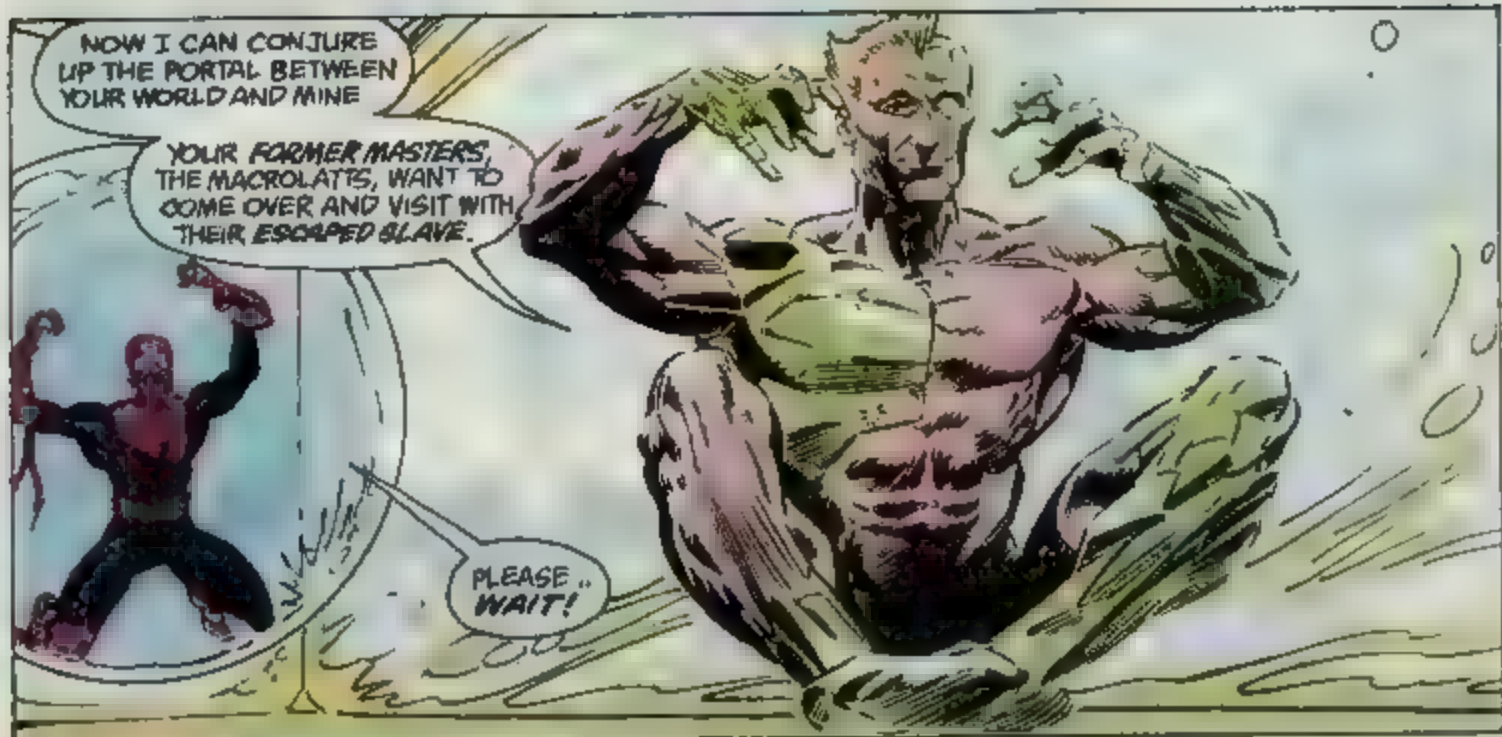
IT'S A LITTLE TRICK THE
MACROLATTS TAUGHT ME, JUST
AFTER YOU PASSED OVER TO
THIS WORLD

THEY THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT BE
TROUBLE



WELL, YOUR TROUBLE-
MAKING DAYS ARE OVER,
WEIRD.

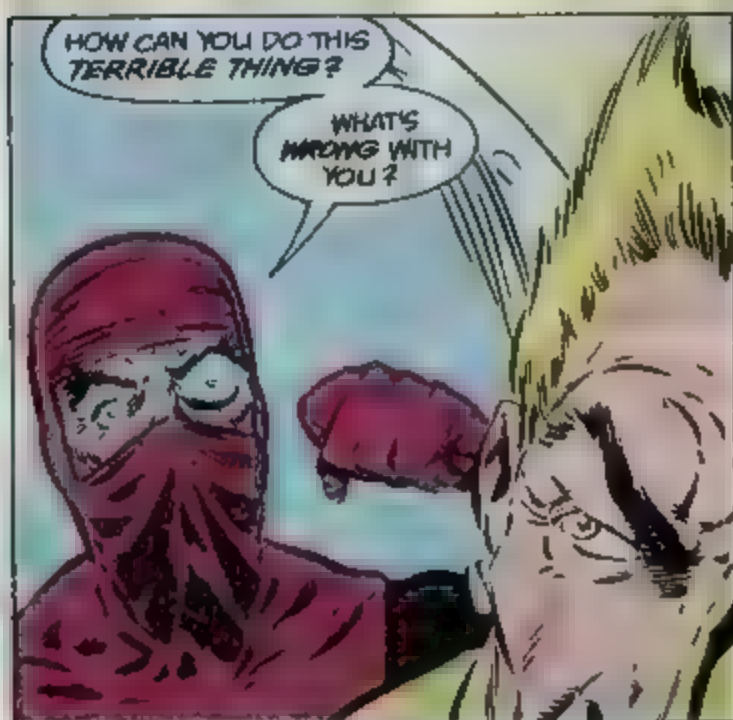
THIS PARTICLE
BEAM ENCASEMENT
WILL KEEP YOU OUT
OF MY HAIR.



NOW I CAN CONJURE
UP THE PORTAL BETWEEN
YOUR WORLD AND MINE

YOUR FORMER MASTERS,
THE MACROLATTS, WANT TO
COME OVER AND VISIT WITH
THEIR ESCAPED SLAVE.

PLEASE...
WAIT!



HOW CAN YOU DO THIS
TERRIBLE THING?

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOU?



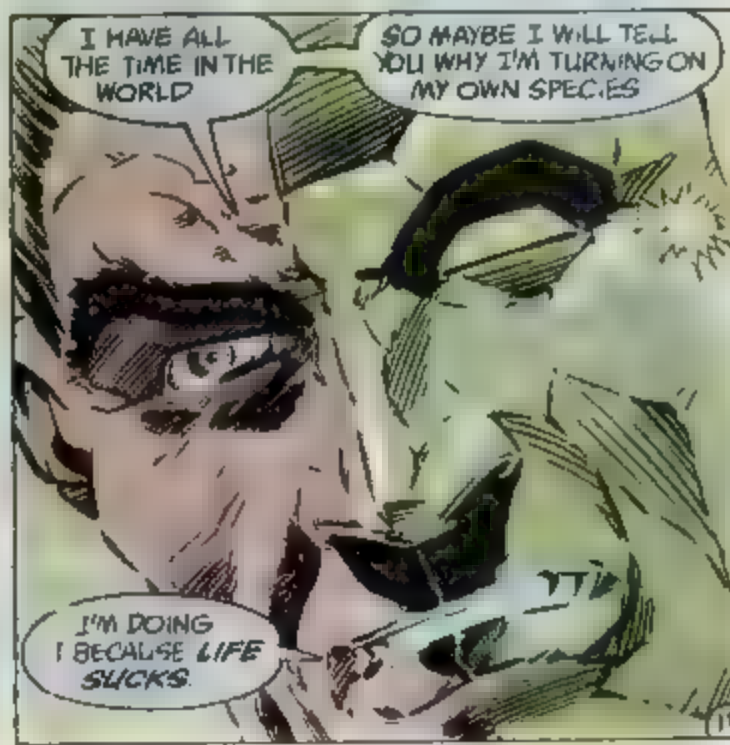
YOU'RE ABOUT TO
BETRAY YOUR OWN SPECIES...
THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE...

I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TRYING TO
DO, WEIRD, AND IT'S
NOT GOING TO
WORK



THE VIBRATORY PATTERNS
WILL BE IN THE PROPER
ALIGNMENT FOR THE
NEXT SIX HOURS...

...SO YOU CAN FORGET
ABOUT KEEPING ME
TALKING UNTIL IT'S TOO
LATE TO CREATE THE
BRIDGE BETWEEN OUR
TWO WORLDS



I HAVE ALL
THE TIME IN THE
WORLD

SO MAYBE I WILL TELL
YOU WHY I'M TURNING ON
MY OWN SPECIES

I'M DOING
IT BECAUSE LIFE
SLICKS.



DOESN'T LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE GETTING
ANYWHERE

WONDER WHAT
THAT BLOCK'S MADE
OFF

MY GUESS
IS SOLID
LIGHT.

YOU'RE
KIDDING.

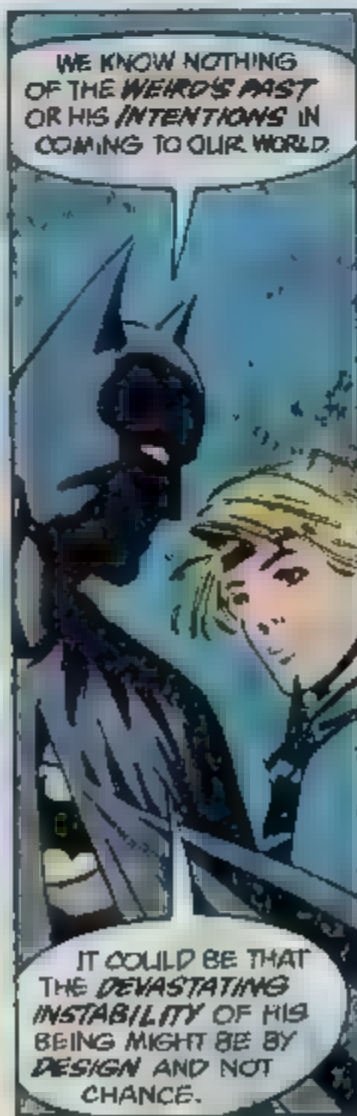


THE CUBE APPEARS
TO BE SELF-
REGENERATING.
IT INSTANTLY RESEALS
ANY PORTION OF IT
WE BLAST AWAY

IT'S IMPERATIVE
THAT WE FIND A WAY
INTO IT

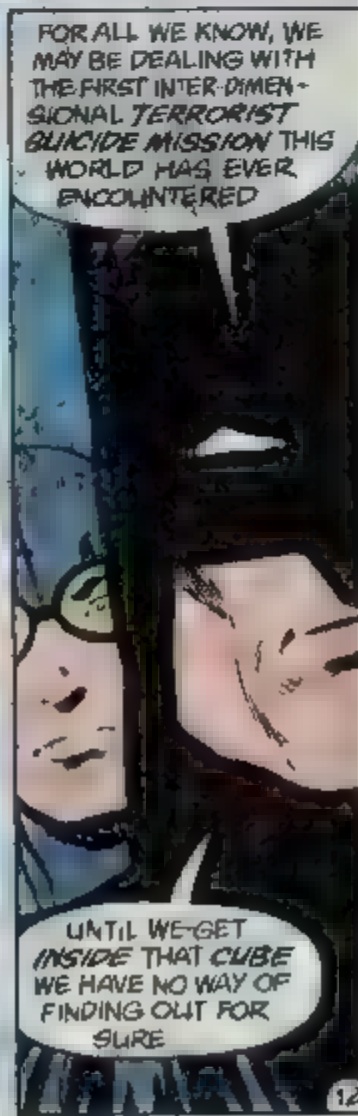


WE ALL KNOW THAT IT'S
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE THE WEIRD'S
MOLECULAR STRUCTURE
WILL REACH CRITICAL
MASS, EXPLODING WITH
ENOUGH FORCE TO
WIPE OUT EARTH. UP
UNTIL NOW WE'VE ASSUMED
THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING
THE WEIRD HADN'T PLANNED
WHEN HE RECONSTRUCTED
THE BODY HE NOW INHABITS



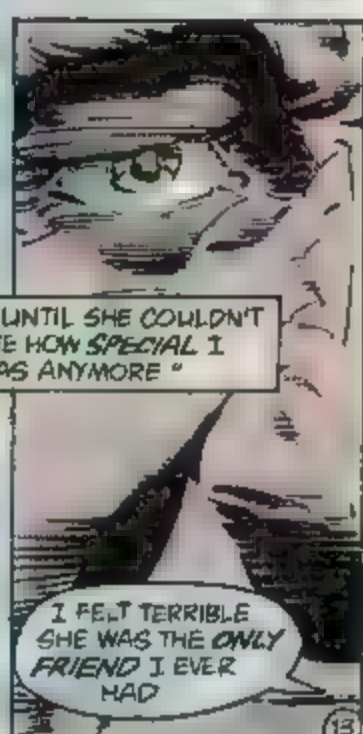
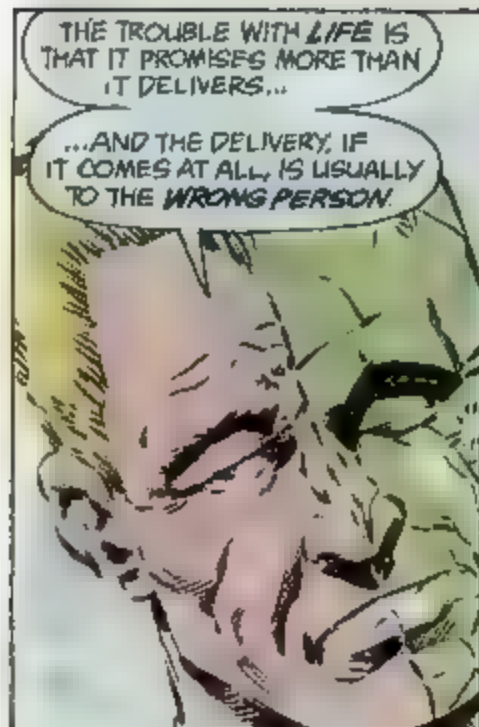
WE KNOW NOTHING
OF THE WEIRD'S PAST
OR HIS INTENTIONS IN
COMING TO OUR WORLD

IT COULD BE THAT
THE DEVASTATING
INSTABILITY OF HIS
BEING MIGHT BE BY
DESIGN AND NOT
CHANCE.



FOR ALL WE KNOW, WE
MAY BE DEALING WITH
THE FIRST INTER-DIMEN-
SIONAL TERRORIST
BLICIDE MISSION THIS
WORLD HAS EVER
ENCOUNTERED

UNTIL WE GET
INSIDE THAT CUBE
WE HAVE NO WAY OF
FINDING OUT FOR
SURE





"FELT EVEN WORSE THE NEXT MORNING WHEN I FOUND HER."

"ONE OF HER GENTLEMAN FRIENDS HAD TAKEN A RAZOR TO HER."



"I CAN STILL REMEMBER HER TELLING ME HOW SPECIAL I WAS."

"SHE AT LEAST LEFT ME THAT BEFORE SHE DIED."



"OF COURSE I ENDED UP IN AN ORPHANAGE. IT WASN'T TOO BAD."



"THE EXPERIENCE TAUGHT ME HOW TO BE STRONG..."

"...HOW TO BE HARD."



"I HAD TO BE STRONG AND HARD..."

"...BECAUSE I WAS SPECIAL."

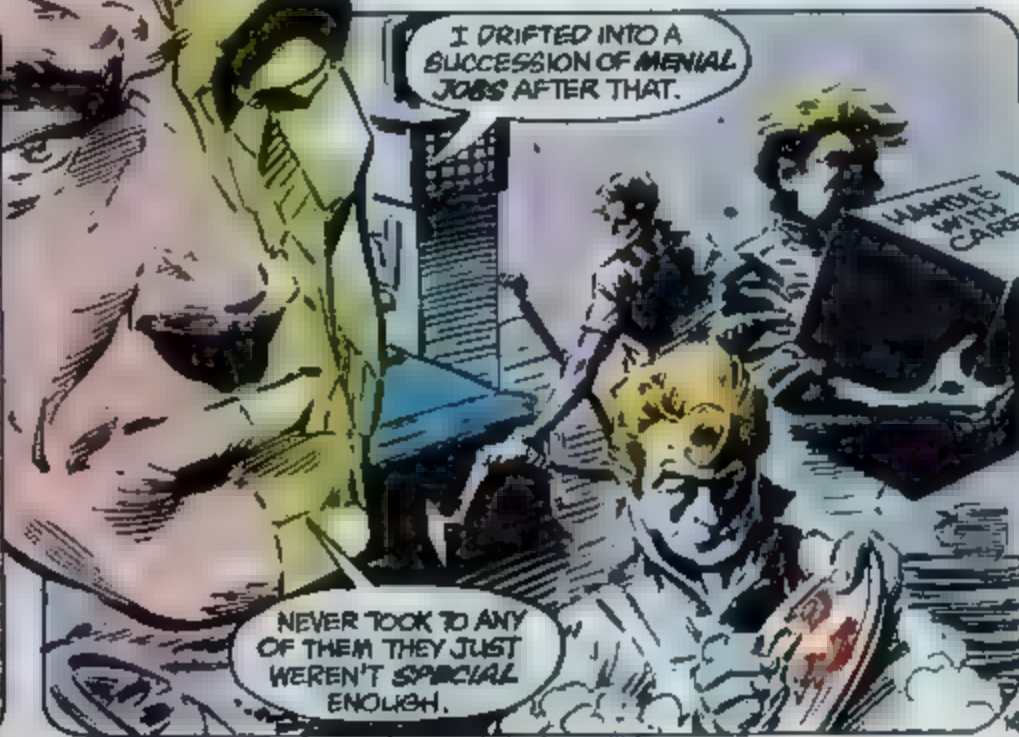


"MAYBE THAT'S WHY I WAS NEVER VERY GOOD AT SCHOOL WORK."

"WHEN YOU'RE SPECIAL, MATH AND HISTORY ARE JUST NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT."



"THEY BOOTED ME OUT OF THE ORPHANAGE WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN BECAUSE OF A LITTLE TROUBLE I GOT INTO WITH A GIRL."



"I DRIFTED INTO A SUCCESSION OF MENIAL JOBS AFTER THAT."

"NEVER TOOK TO ANY OF THEM THEY JUST WEREN'T SPECIAL ENOUGH."

"THE JERKS I WORKED FOR COULDN'T SEE HOW SPECIAL I WAS

"I ALWAYS ENDED UP GETTING FIRED.

"FINALLY, I DECIDED GETTING HIRED AND FIRED WAS A BIG WASTE OF TIME. THERE WAS SOMETHING GREAT WAITING FOR ME OUT THERE.

"IT WOULDN'T FIND ME IN SOME STUPID SHOE STORE SO I STARTED LIVING ON THE STREET. THE STREETS ARE WHERE THINGS HAPPEN.

"PEOPLE ON THE STREET SAW HOW SPECIAL I WAS AND GAVE ME MONEY FOR DOING NOTHING.

"NOT MUCH, BUT ENOUGH TO GET BY ON

"COURSE, SOMETIMES I HAD TO EAT GARBAGE.

"DIDN'T LIKE IT MUCH DURING THE WINTER.

"IT WASN'T ALWAYS EASY TO FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP.

WHA
AIN
THIS
PLATFO

"BUT THE WORST PART WAS THE DIRT.

SKRITCH
SKRITCH

"THE BROADS DON'T GO FOR DIRTY MEN. THEY LIKE THEM CLEAN.

SKRITCH
SKRITCH

"THE DIRT HAD NOW SPECIAL I WAS FROM THEM.

"THE TIME HAD COME FOR ME TO CLEAN UP MY ACT.

"I WANTED SOME OF THOSE LONG-LEGGED WOMEN.

SKRITCH
SKRITCH

"THE FIRST STEP WAS TO GET ANOTHER JOB.

METROPO
EMPLOYM
BUREAU

"THEY HAD ME DO SOME KIND OF FOOL APTITUDE TEST.

"THEY HAD A JOB FOR ME THE NEXT DAY.

"I IMMEDIATELY REALIZED THAT THE PEOPLE AT THE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU HAD REALIZED HOW SPECIAL I WAS AND WERE JEALOUS. WHY ELSE WOULD THEY HAVE SENT ME TO SUCH A JOB?"

"I KNEW THEY'D HAVE NO BETTER PLACEMENT FOR ME, SO I ACCEPTED THIS ONE SWEARING THAT SOMEONE WOULD EVENTUALLY PAY FOR THIS INDIGNITY."

METROPOL
DEPARTMENT
OF
SANITATION

WASH
ME

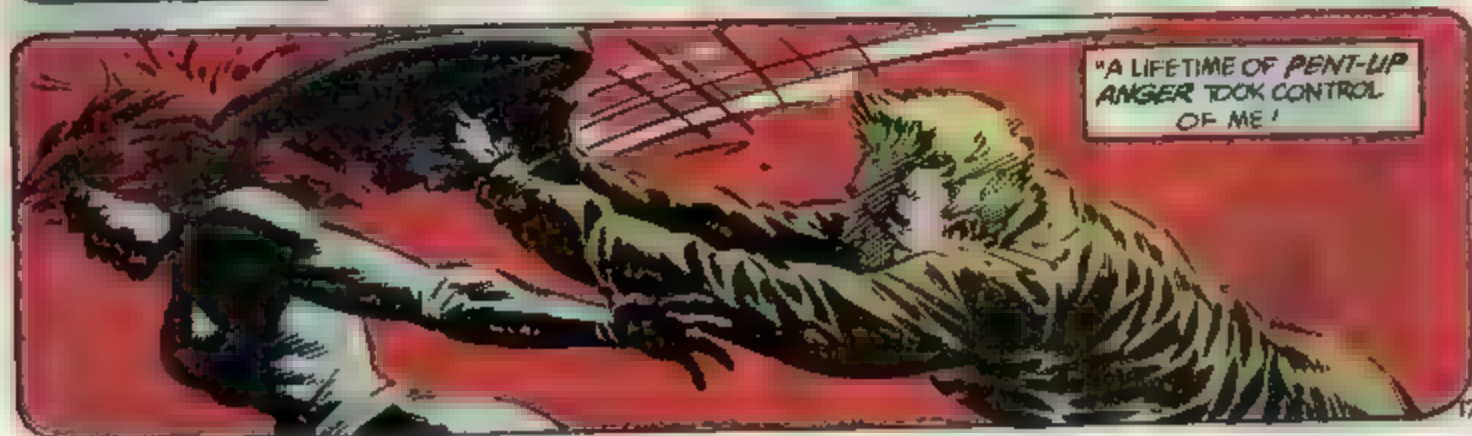
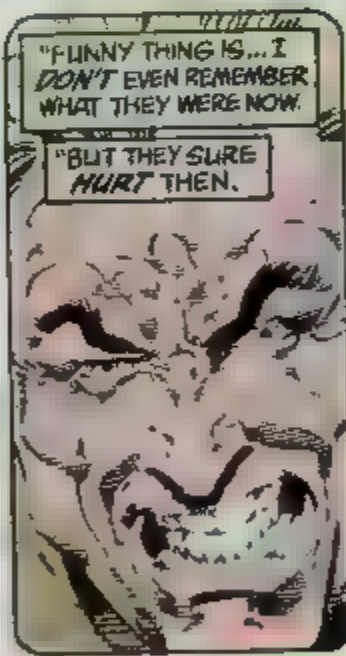
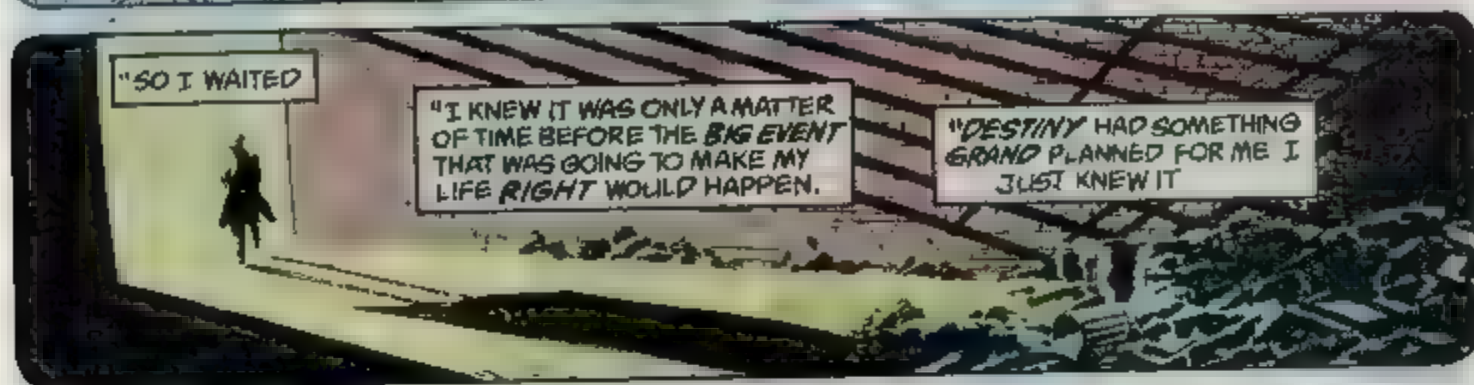
ARNE
WILL

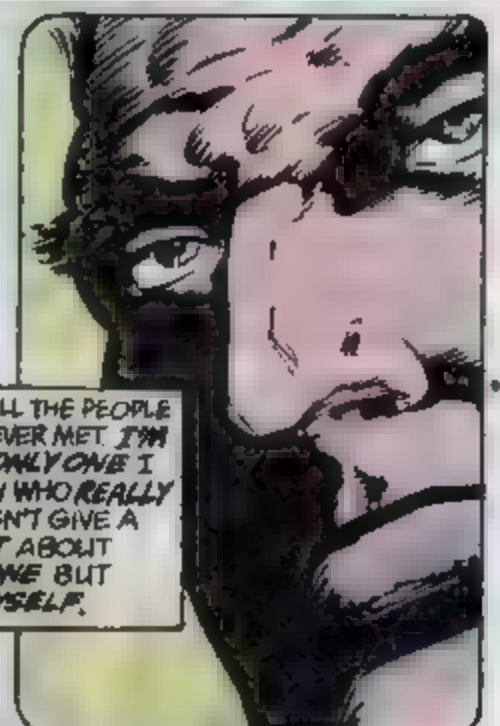
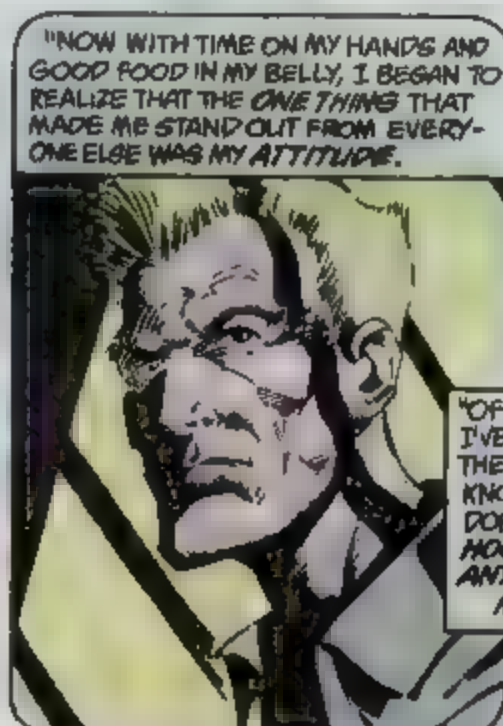
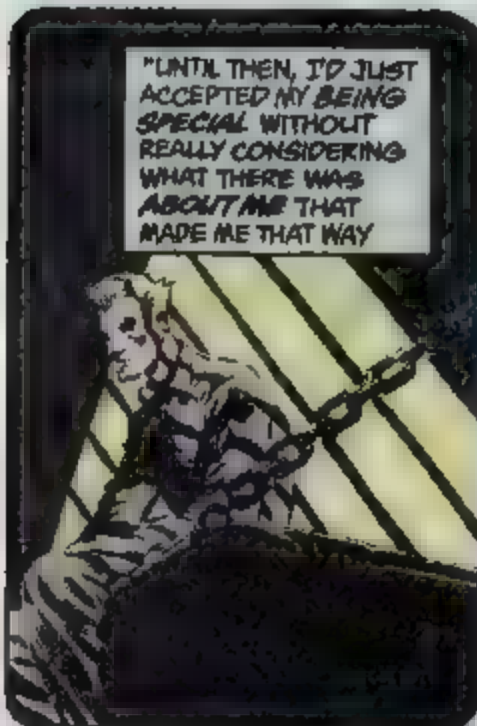
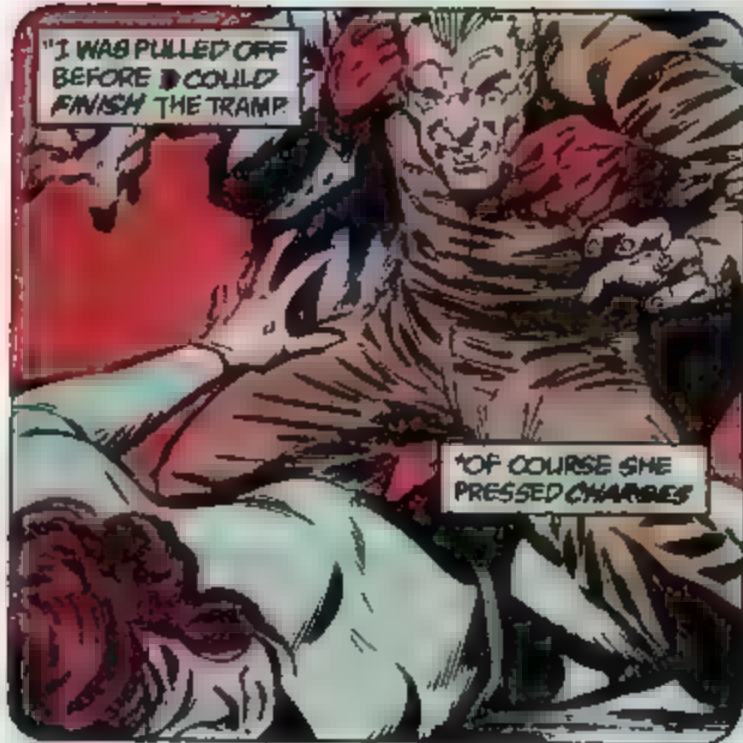
"I DIDN'T MIND THE WORK. IT WAS HARD AND MADE ME USE MUSCLES I DIDN'T KNOW I HAD. BUT I HATED THE FILTH AND THE FILTH WAS EVERYWHERE."



"SOMEHOW TIME SLIPPED AWAY FROM ME. BEFORE I KNEW IT I'D BEEN WORKING THE TRUCK FOR FIVE STINKING DISGUSTING YEARS."







"THE DREAM TOLD ME
THAT I WAS THE ONE
THEY HAD BEEN
LOOKING FOR

"I WAS THE SPECIAL
SOMEONE THEY NEEDED.

"THEY PROMISED ME
POWER AND GLORY.

"AT FIRST I THOUGHT THE
DREAM WAS JUST THAT...
A DREAM.

"BUT THE VOICES AND
PROMISES RETURNED
EVERY NIGHT FOR A WEEK.

"SOME OF THE THINGS
THE DREAM INSTRUCTED ME
TO DO SEEMED CRAZY.

"FINALLY I DECIDED TO TRY
WHAT THE DREAMS ASKED OF
ME. WHAT DID I HAVE TO
LOSE?

"THEY TOLD ME THAT MY
BATHROOM WAS THE SPOT
WHERE THE HARMONIC
BALANCES WOULD BE AT
THEIR PEAK

"SO I SET MY MIND IN THE MANNER
AS I'D BEEN INSTRUCTED, AND
RECITED THE SOUNDLESS WORDS
THAT HAD BEEN ENGRAVED INTO
MY SUBCONSCIOUS.

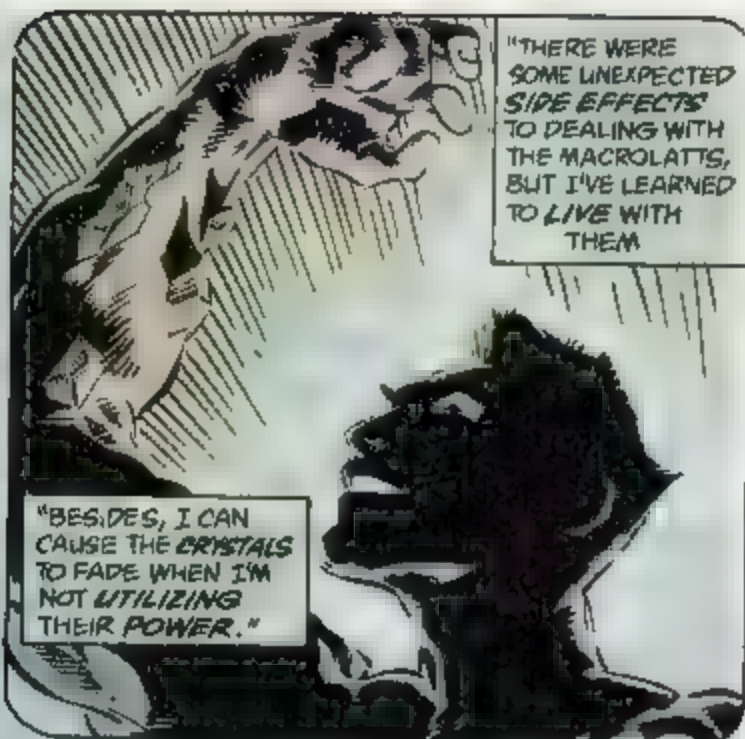
"THE CONJURING
WORKED THE FIRST
TIME OFF. IT WAS
AS IF I HAD BEEN
BORN TO THE
SPELL-CASTING
STUFF.

"ALL MY WAITING
WAS FINALLY OVER.



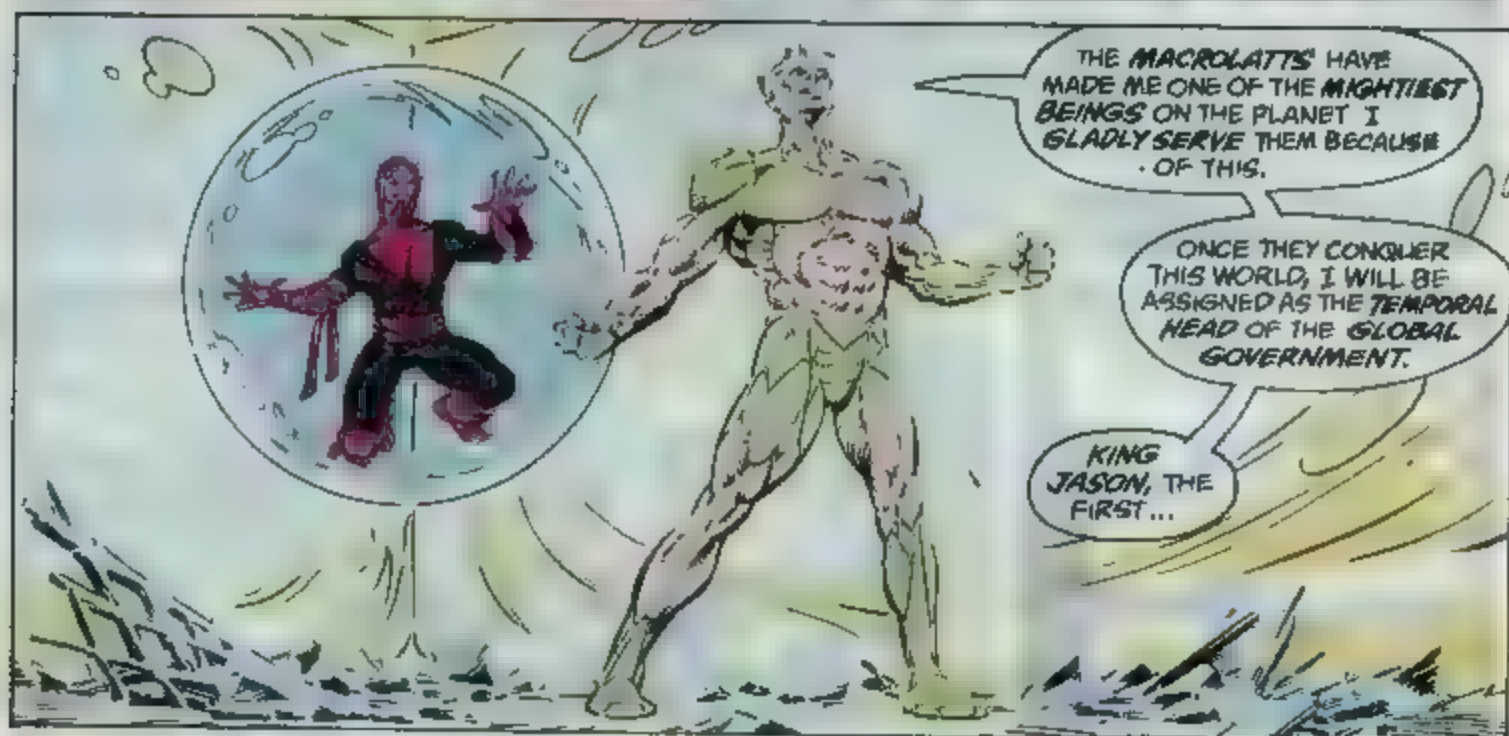
"FOR WEEKS I STUDIED UNDER THE MACROLATTS, GROWING IN SKILL AND POWER

"IT WAS LIKE A FANTASY COME TRUE



"THERE WERE SOME UNEXPECTED SIDE EFFECTS TO DEALING WITH THE MACROLATTS, BUT I'VE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH THEM

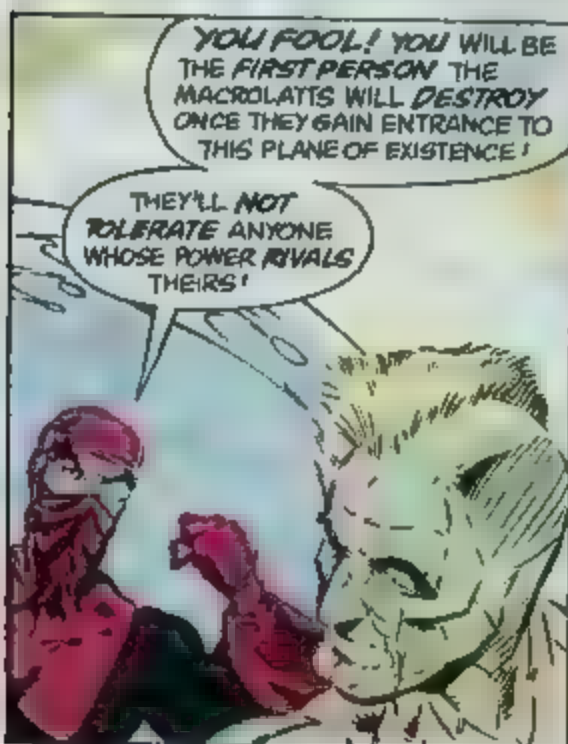
"BESIDES, I CAN CAUSE THE CRYSTALS TO FADE WHEN I'M NOT UTILIZING THEIR POWER."



THE MACROLATTS HAVE MADE ME ONE OF THE MIGHTIEST BEINGS ON THE PLANET. I GLADLY SERVE THEM BECAUSE OF THIS.

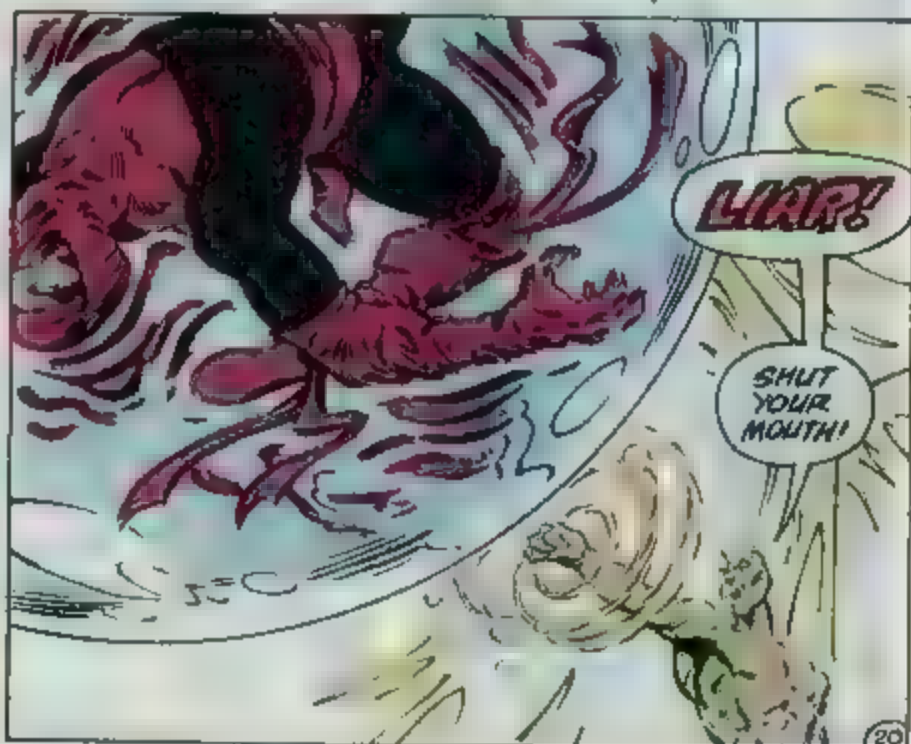
ONCE THEY CONQUER THIS WORLD, I WILL BE ASSIGNED AS THE TEMPORAL HEAD OF THE GLOBAL GOVERNMENT.

KING JASON, THE FIRST...



YOU FOOL! YOU WILL BE THE FIRST PERSON THE MACROLATTS WILL DESTROY ONCE THEY GAIN ENTRANCE TO THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE!

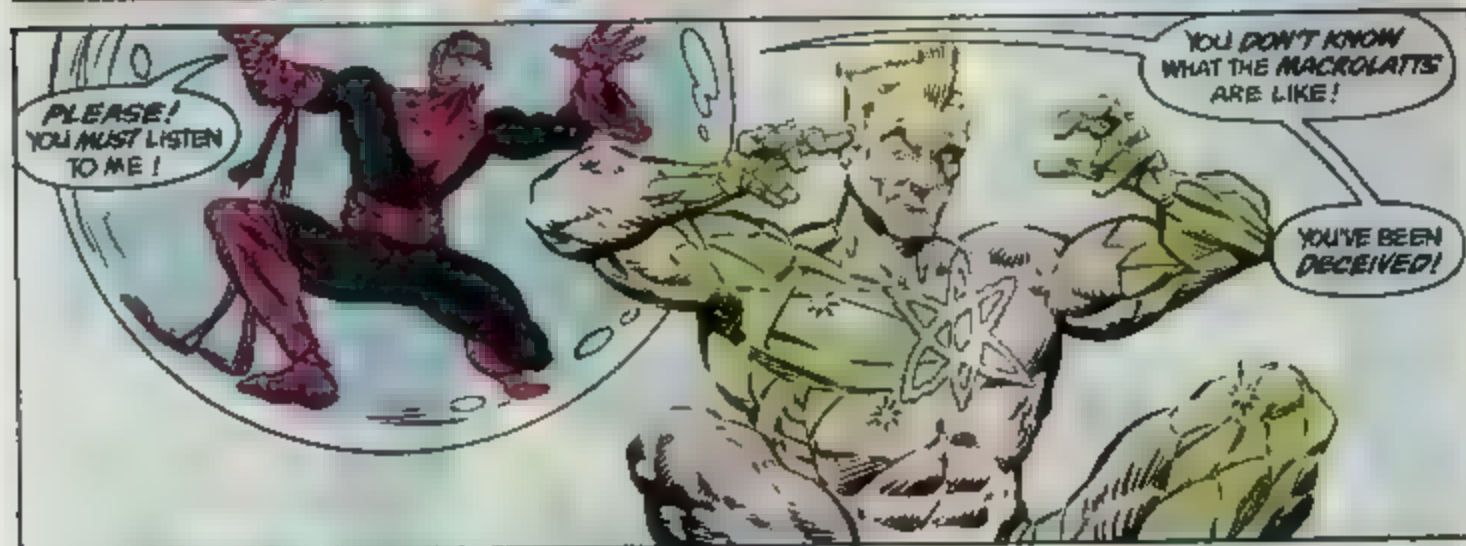
THEY'LL NOT TOLERATE ANYONE WHOSE POWER RIVALS THEIRS!



LIAR!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!



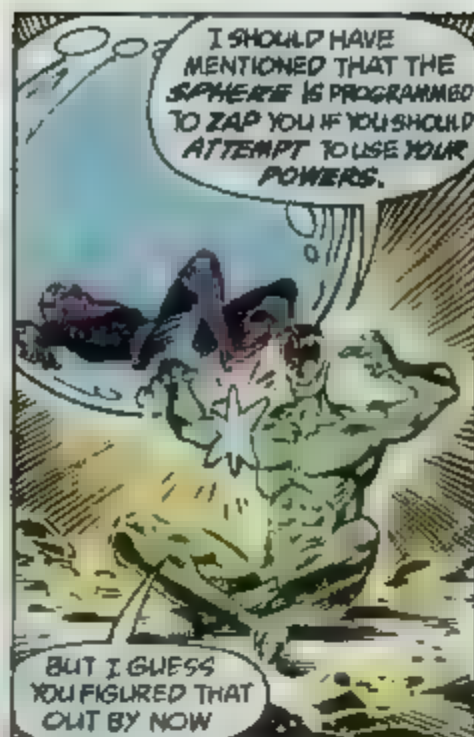




YOU ARE
MAD!
YOU MUST BE
STOPPED!



AAAAARRGGG!!



I SHOULD HAVE
MENTIONED THAT THE
SPHERE IS PROGRAMMED
TO ZAP YOU IF YOU SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO USE YOUR
POWERS.

BUT I GUESS
YOU FIGURED THAT
OUT BY NOW



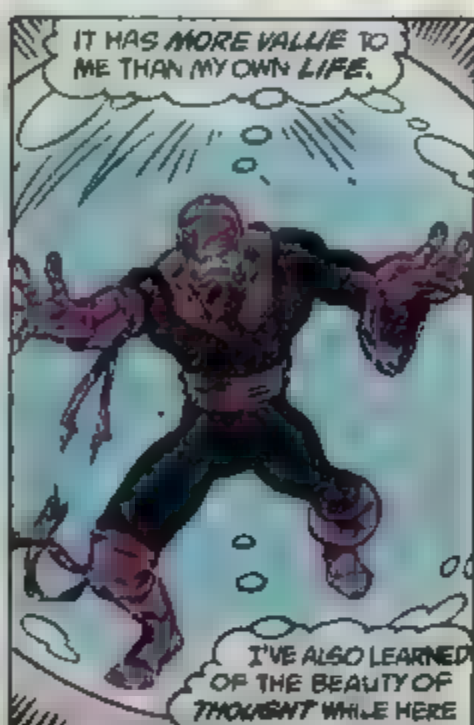
HE'S GONE BACK
TO HIS SPELL-
CASTING...

HE THINKS
I'M BEATEN...
HE'S WRONG.



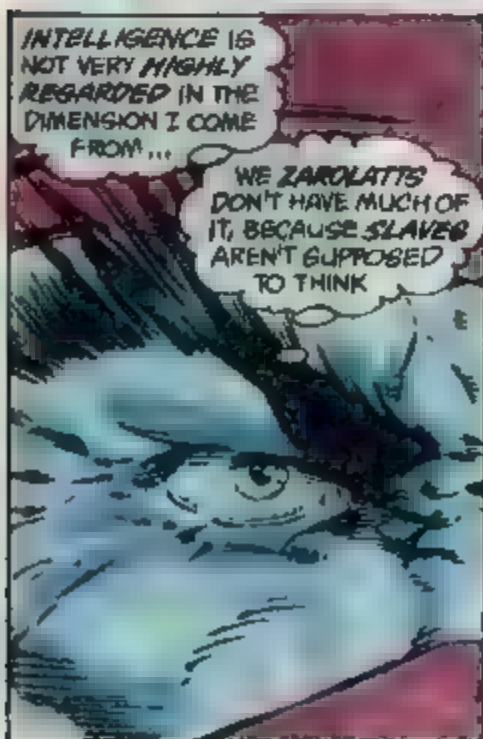
THIS WORLD HAS SHOWN
ME THE BEAUTY THAT
IS FREEDOM.

I'VE TASTED
ITS SWEET
NECTAR AND
KNOW ITS
WORTH.



IT HAS MORE VALUE TO
ME THAN MY OWN LIFE.

I'VE ALSO LEARNED
OF THE BEAUTY OF
THOUGHT WHILE HERE



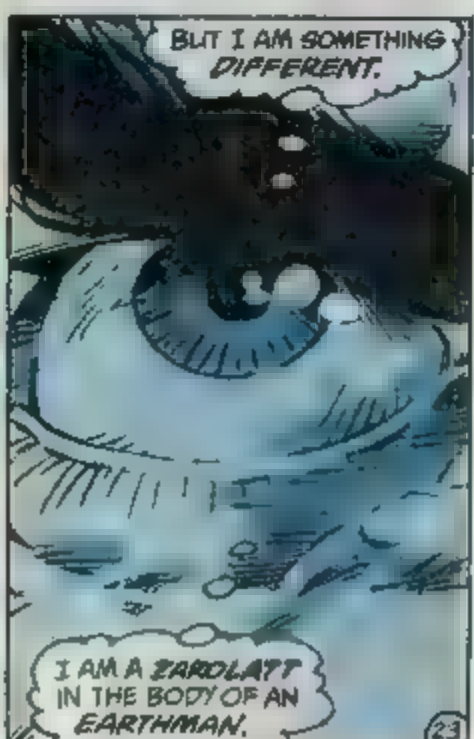
INTELLIGENCE IS
NOT VERY HIGHLY
REGARDED IN THE
DIMENSION I COME
FROM...

WE ZAROLATTS
DON'T HAVE MUCH OF
IT, BECAUSE SLAVES
AREN'T SUPPOSED
TO THINK



MACROLATTS DON'T BOTHER
WITH A LOT OF THINKING,
EITHER WHY SHOULD THEY?

THEY HAVE
POWER.



BUT I AM SOMETHING
DIFFERENT.

I AM A ZAROLATT
IN THE BODY OF AN
EARTHMAN.



THE JASON NEARS
THE COMPLETION
OF HIS CONJURING.
I MUST HURRY.

I AM HELD
IN THIS
SPHERE BY
VIBRATORY
CHARGES.



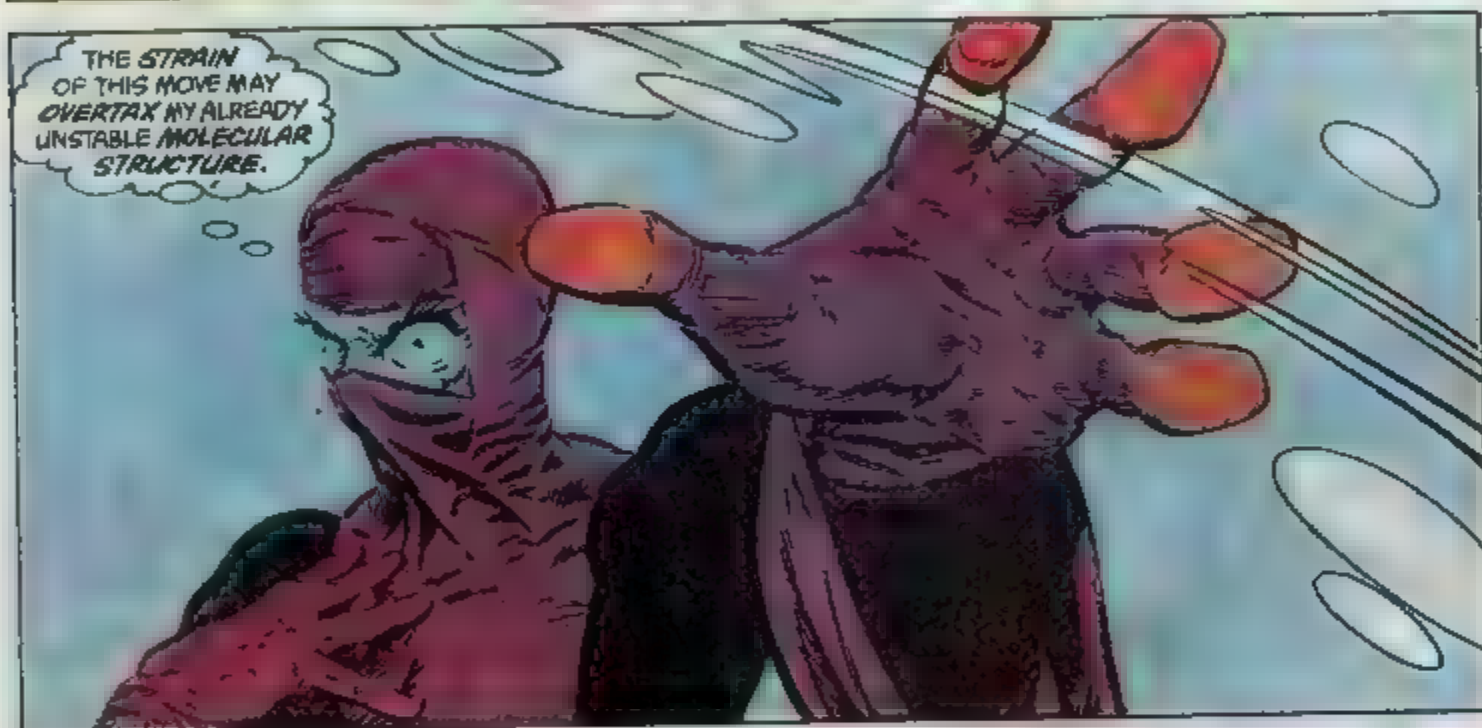
VIBRATIONS ARE
BASICALLY THE
EFFECT OF ENERGY
ON MATTER.

PERHAPS I
CAN CREATE A
COUNTER-
VIBRATION
WITH MY
POWERS.



THIS COUNTER-
VIBRATION MIGHT
SHATTER THIS
IMPRISONING
SPHERE.

BUT THIS PLAN
IS LACED WITH
HIDDEN
DANGERS.



THE STRAIN
OF THIS MOVE MAY
OVERTAX MY ALREADY
UNSTABLE MOLECULAR
STRUCTURE.



IF MY MASS GOES
CRITICAL, I WILL EXPLODE
WITH THE FORCE OF A
THOUSAND ATOMIC
BOMBS.



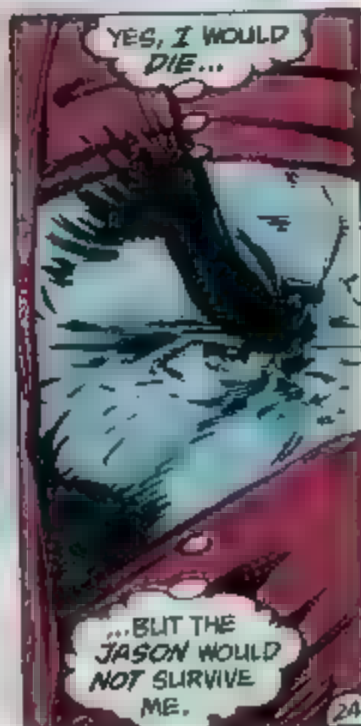
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-
STANCES, MEETING MY
FATE IN THIS MANNER
WOULD ALSO ASSURE
THIS PLANET'S DEMISE.

BUT I NOW
FIND MYSELF IN A VERY
ABNORMAL AND MAYBE
FORTUITOUS CIRCUMSTANCE.



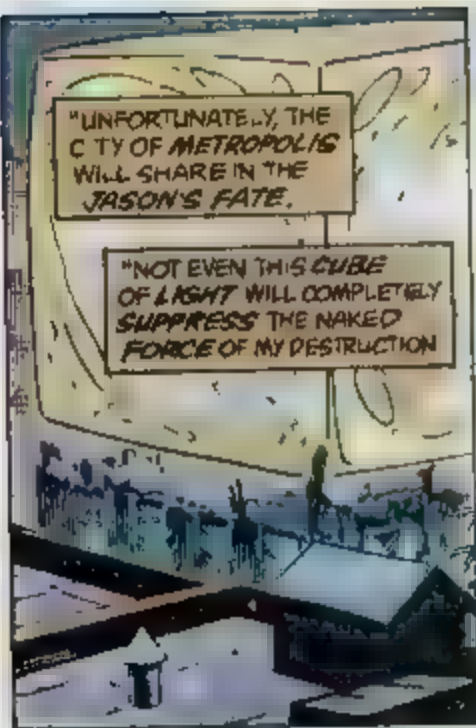
I AM NOW DEEP WITHIN
THE FORTIFIED SHELL OF
JASON'S CUBE OF
LIGHT.

MY SENSES CALCULATE
THAT THIS STRUCTURE WOULD
CONTAIN AT LEAST 98%
OF THE FORCE OF MY
EXPLOSIVE TERMINATION.



YES, I WOULD
DIE...

...BUT THE
JASON WOULD
NOT SURVIVE
ME.



"UNFORTUNATELY, THE CITY OF METROPOLIS WILL SHARE IN THE JASON'S FATE."

"NOT EVEN THIS CUBE OF LIGHT WILL COMPLETELY SUPPRESS THE NAKED FORCE OF MY DESTRUCTION"



"EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY WITHIN A TEN-MILE RADIUS OF GROUND ZERO WILL BE ANNIHILATED."

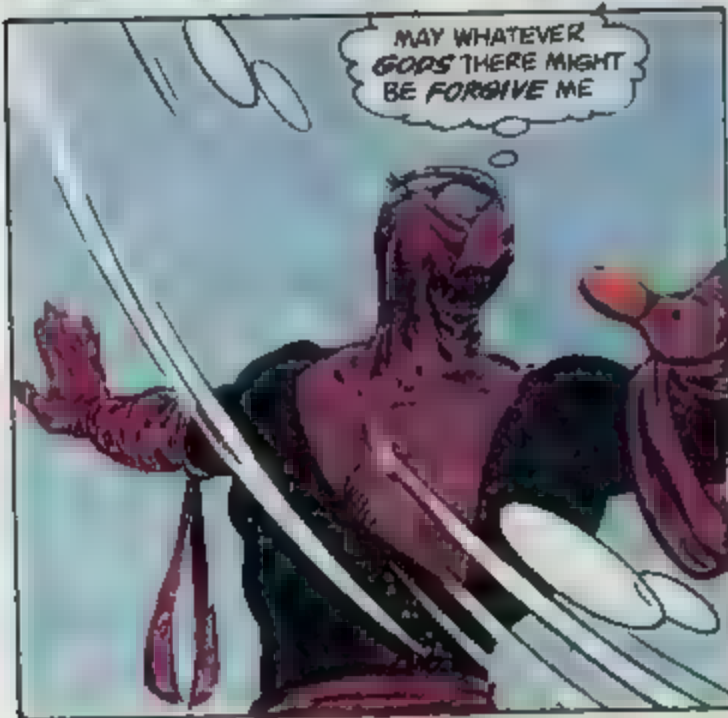


DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUN A RISK THAT ENDANGERS SO MANY LIVES?

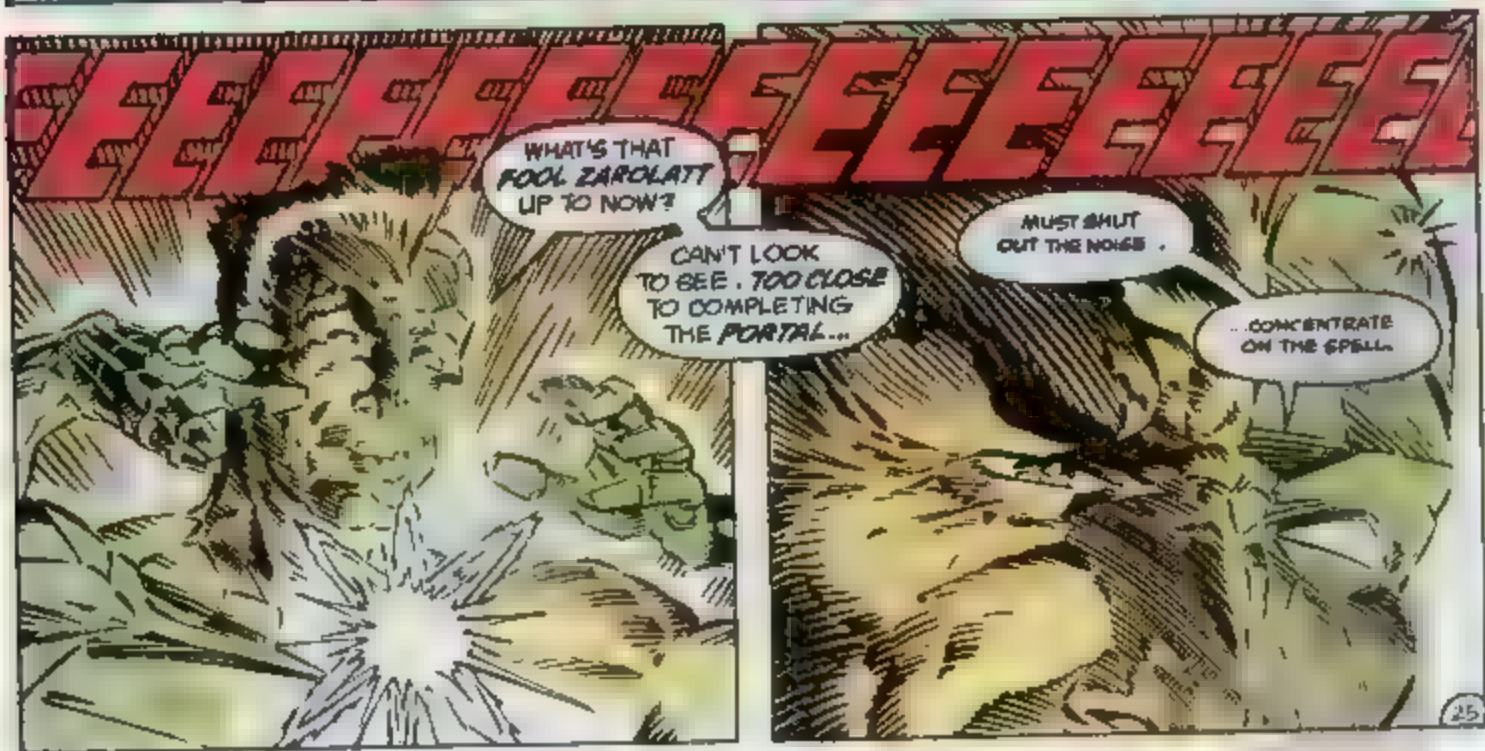
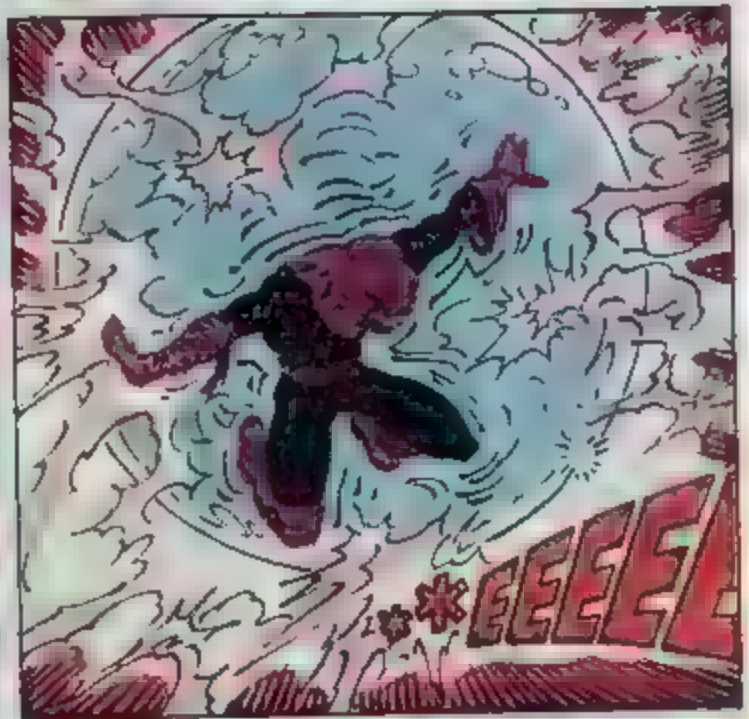
I FEAR THE ANSWER IS YES.

NO ONE KNOWS OR HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF STOPPING THE MACROLATTS THAN I DO.

I AM THIS PLANET'S ONLY TRUE HOPE.



MAY WHATEVER GODS THERE MIGHT BE FORGIVE ME



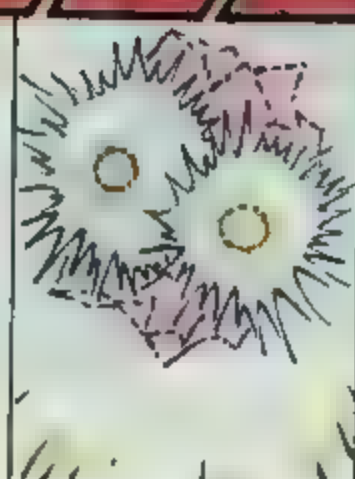
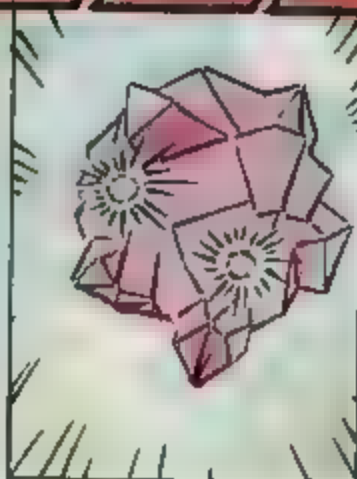
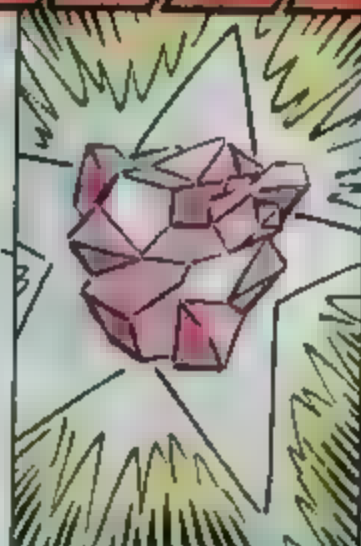
WHAT'S THAT FOOL ZAROLATT UP TO NOW?

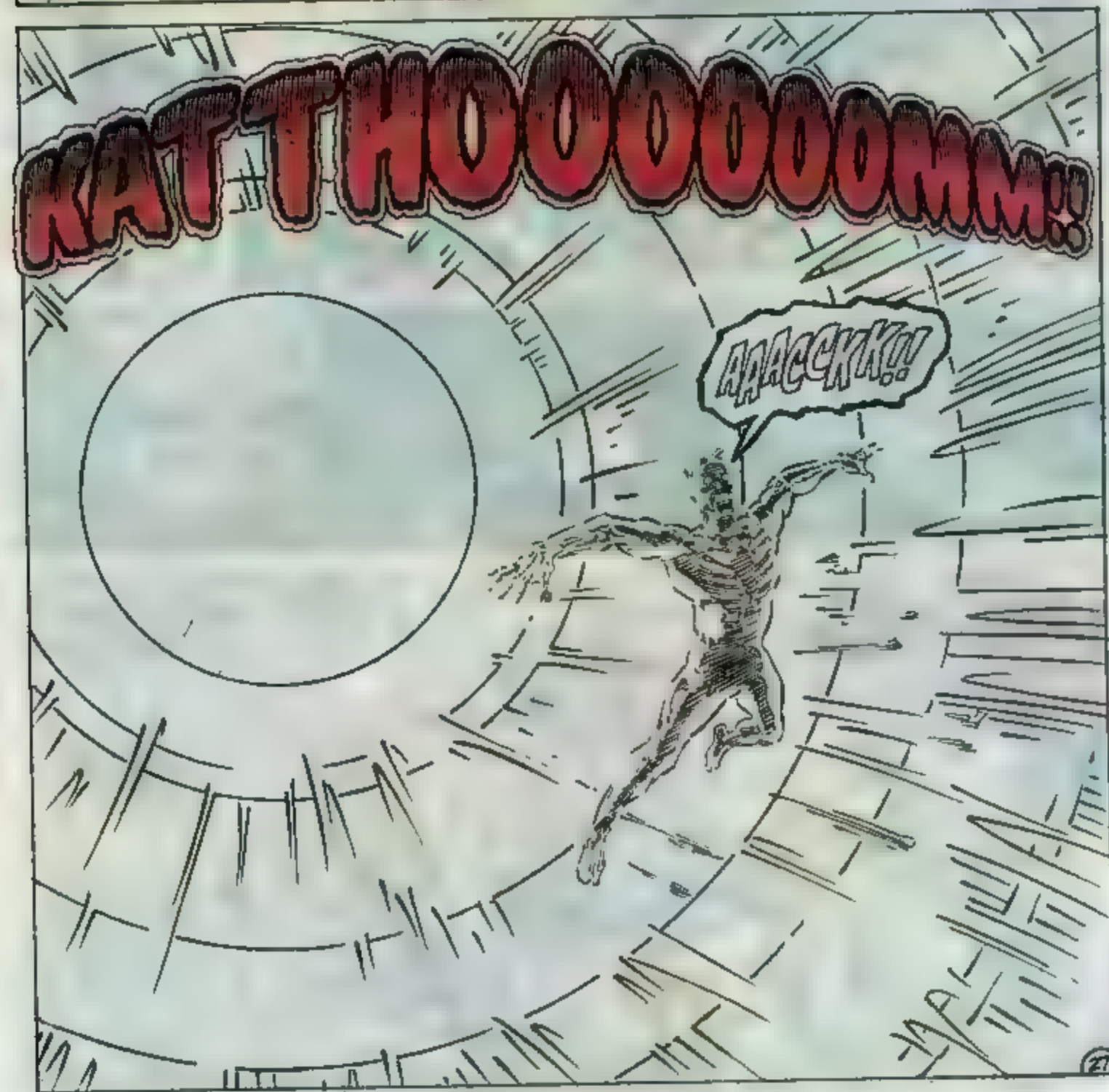
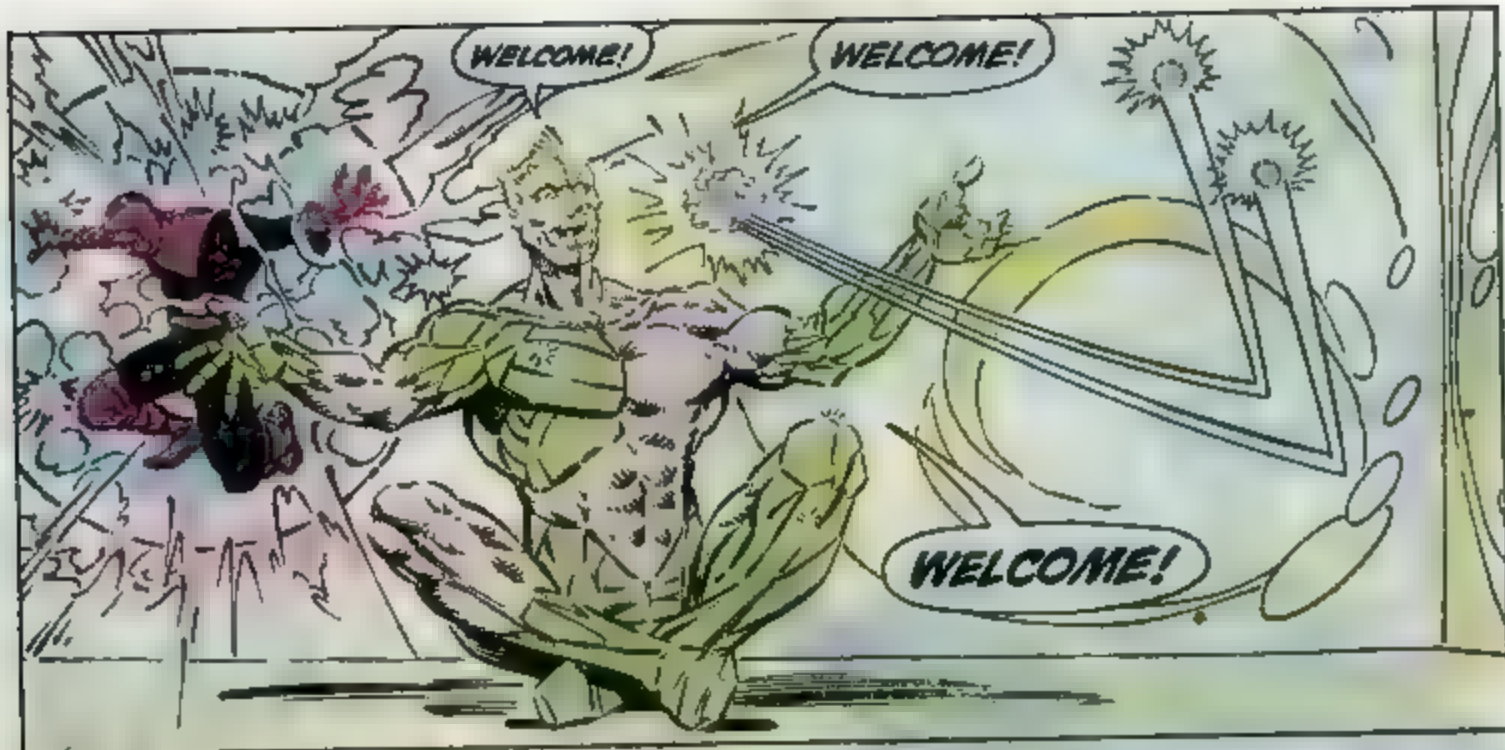
CAN'T LOOK TO SEE. TOO CLOSE TO COMPLETING THE PORTAL...

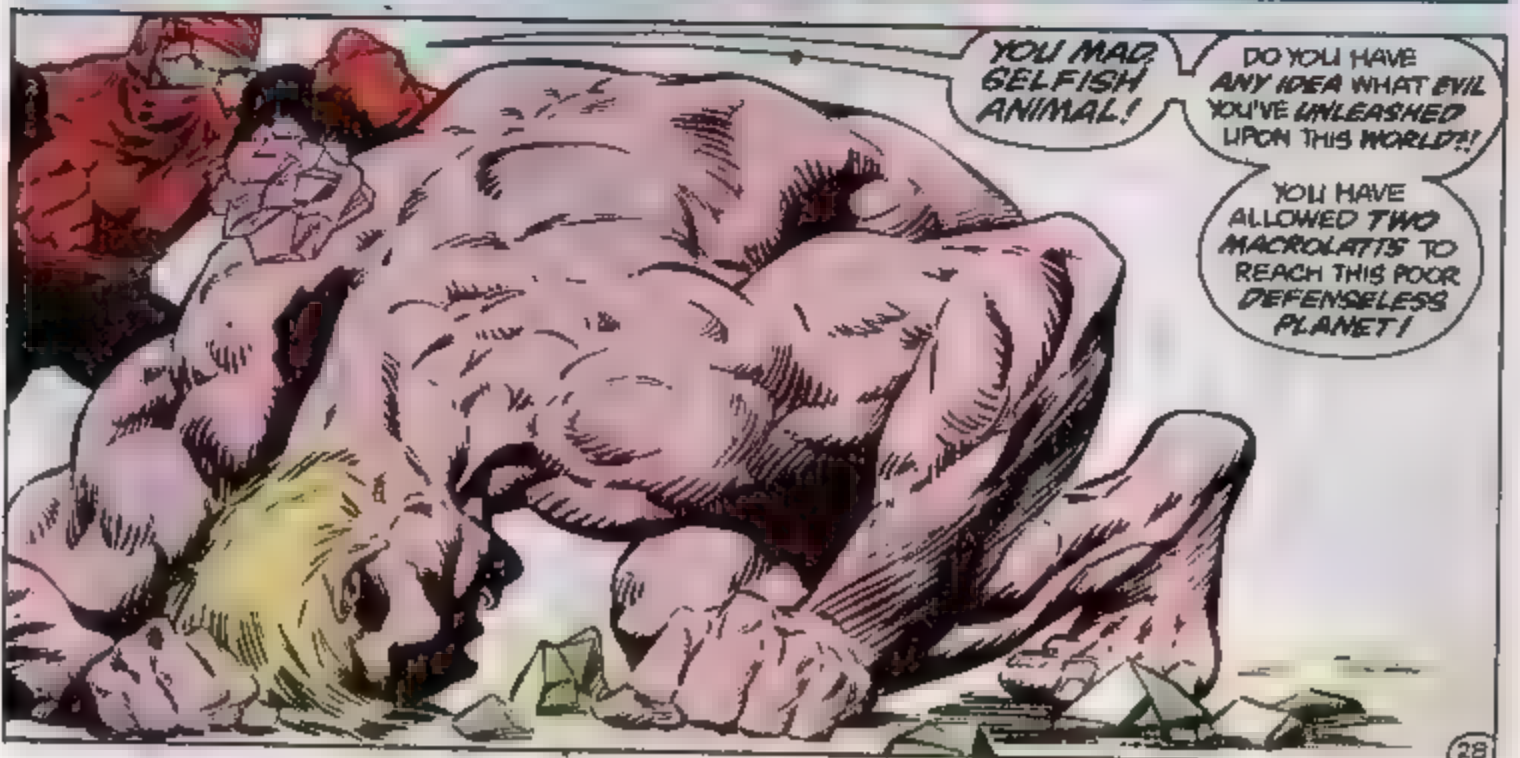
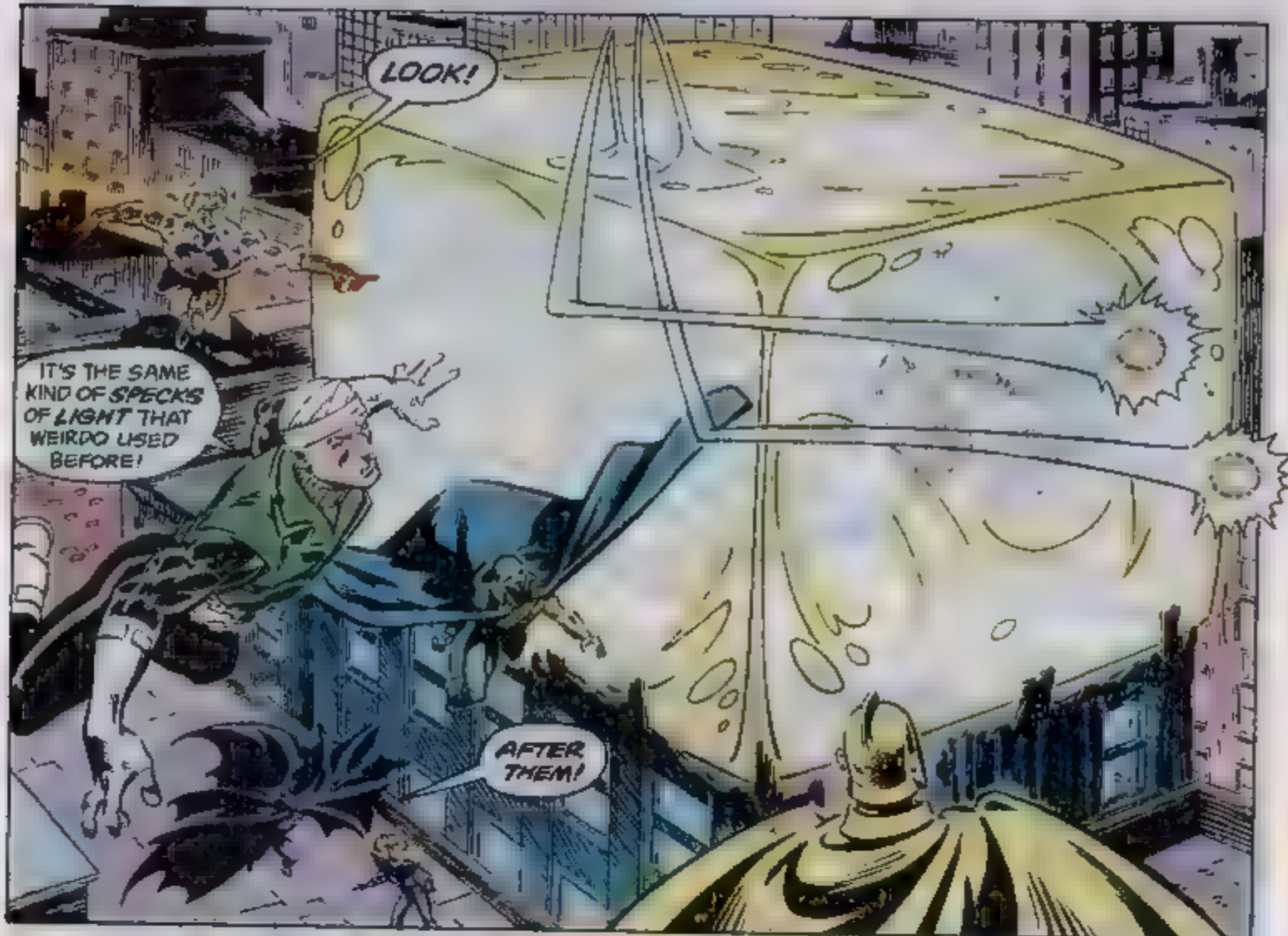
MUST SHUT OUT THE NOISE.

...CONCENTRATE ON THE SPELL.

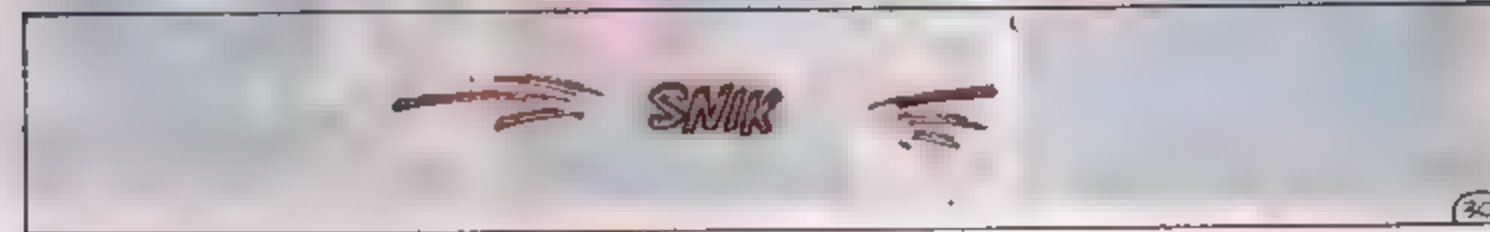
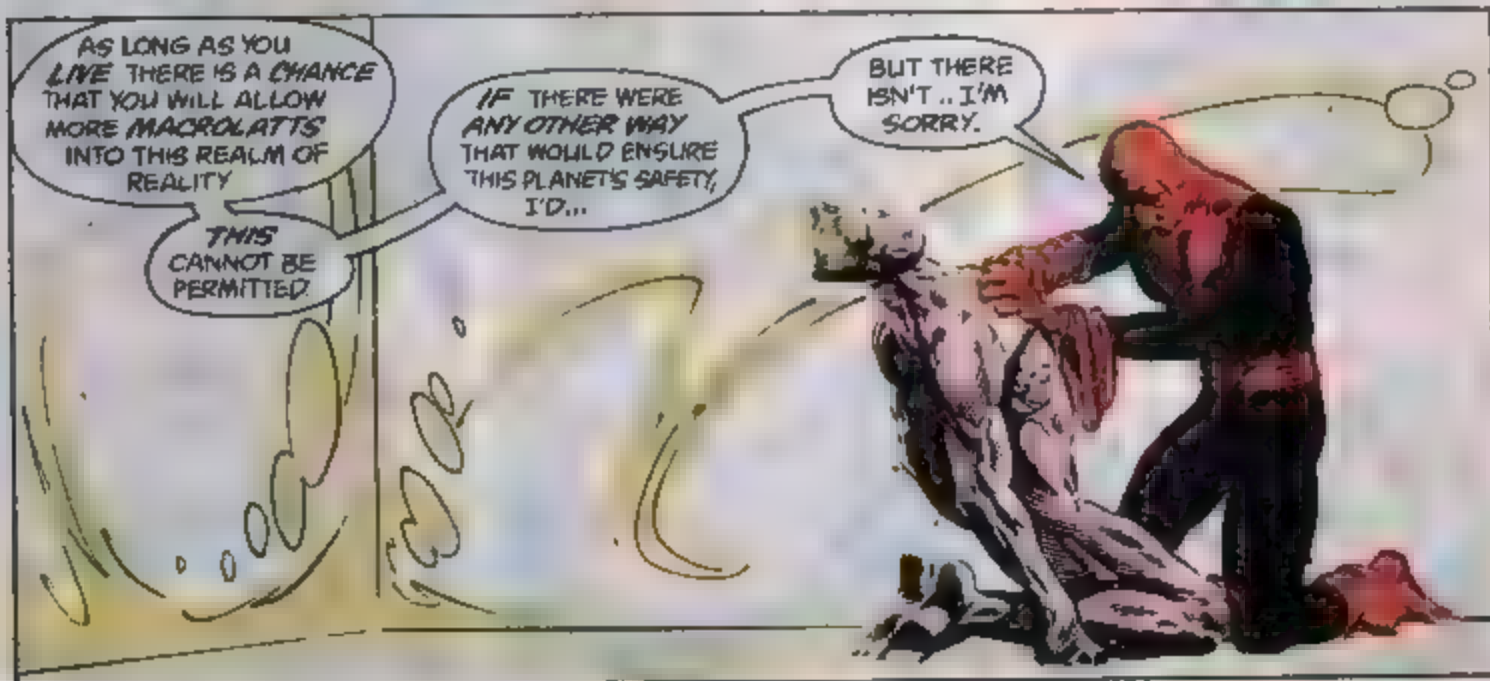
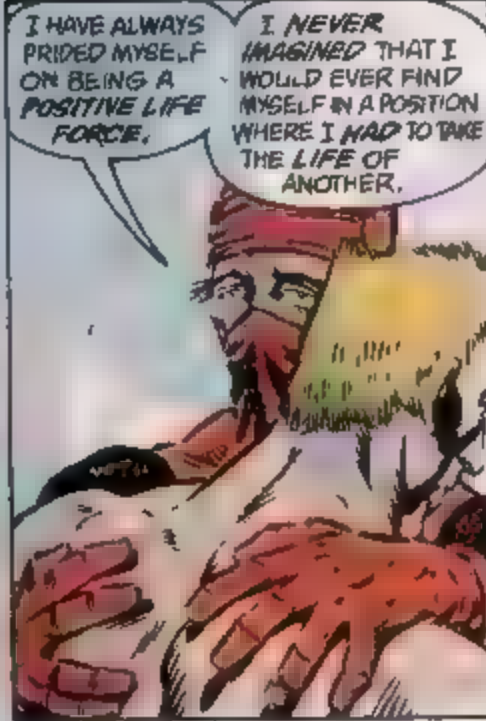
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

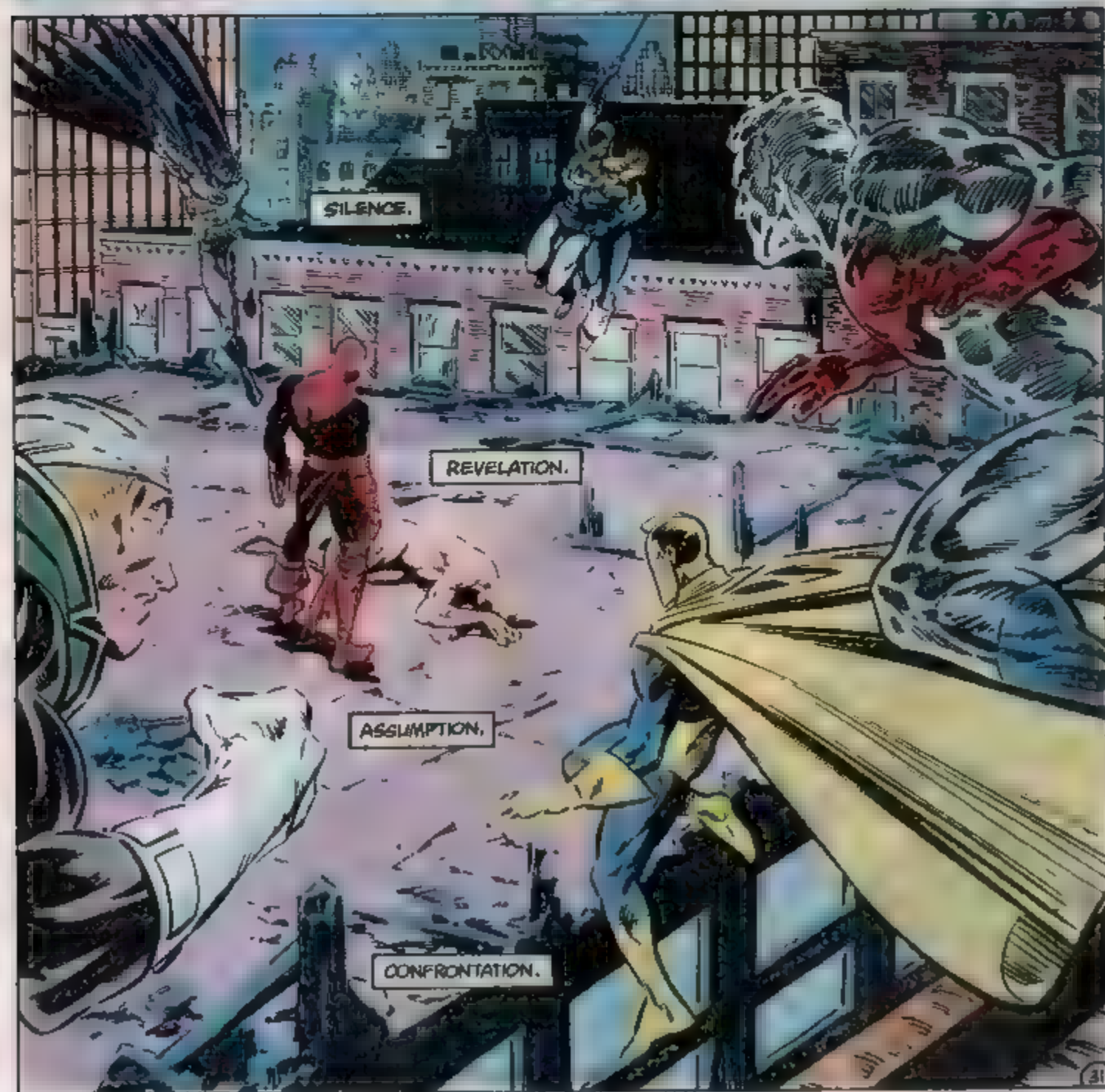
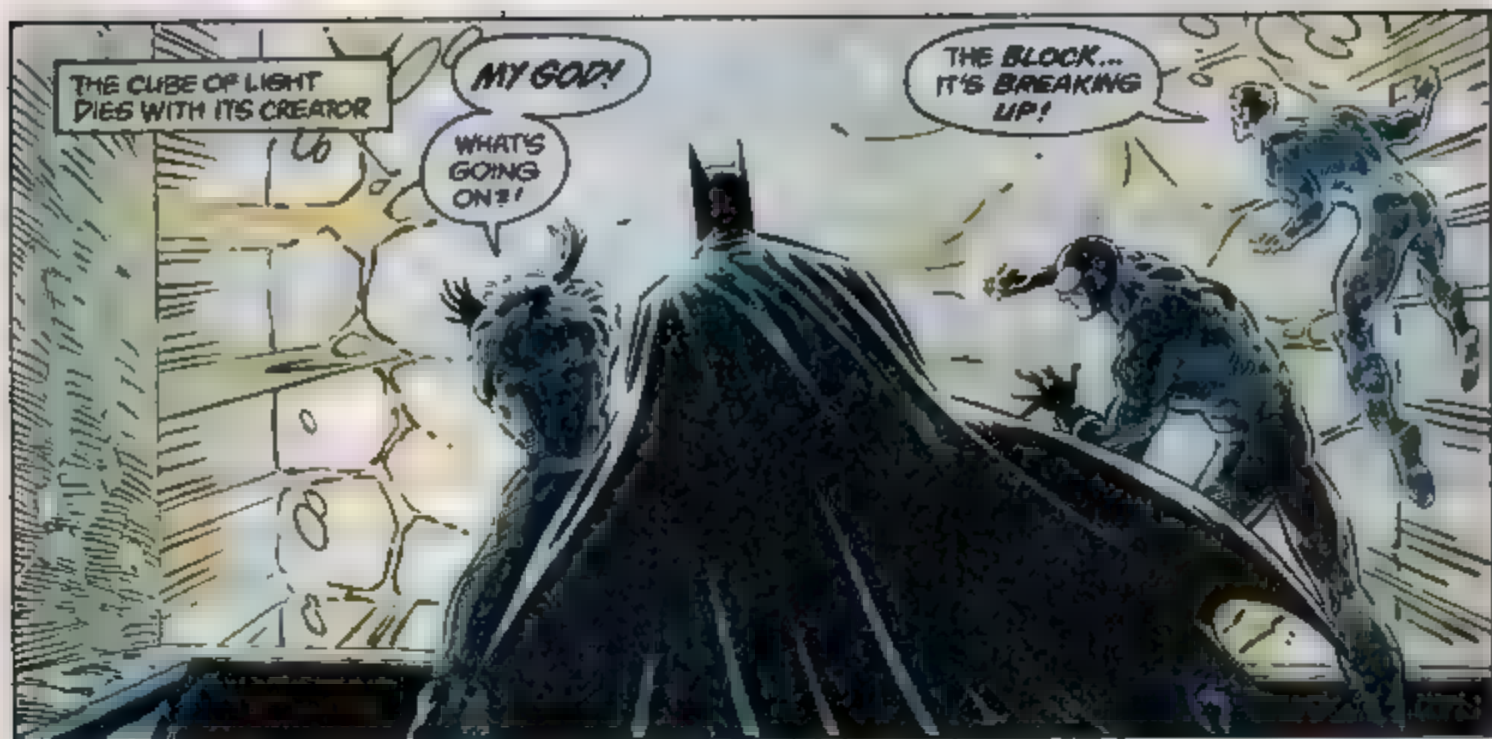














THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, 50 MILES
OFF THE COAST OF METROPOLIS.

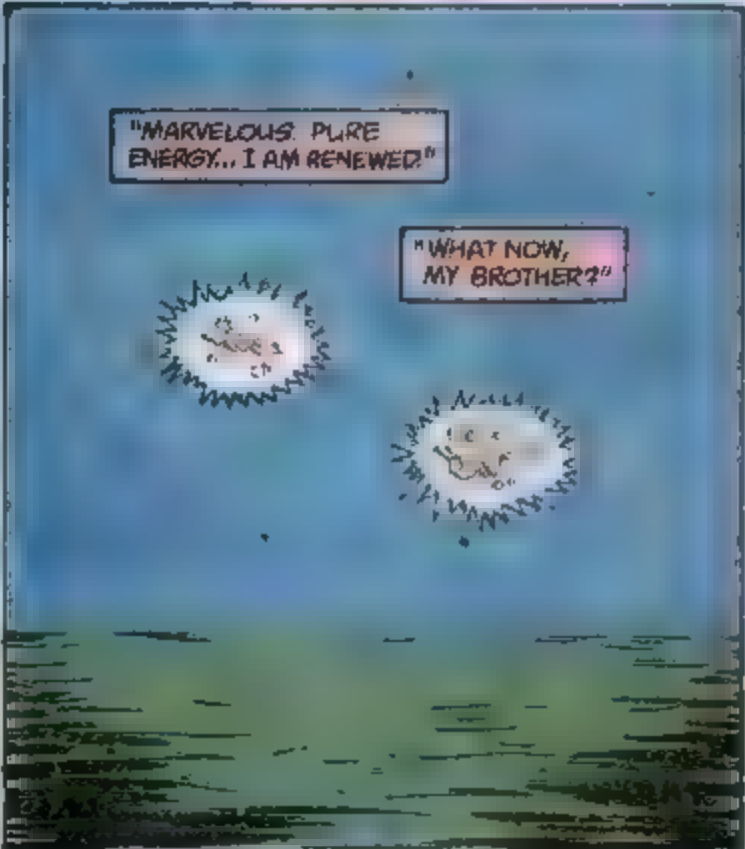
"WE APPROACH A TREMENDOUS
SOURCE OF POWER, MY BROTHER."

"THEN LET US PARTAKE OF IT TO REPLENISH THE
ENERGIES OUR CROSSING OVER HAS DRAINED FROM US."



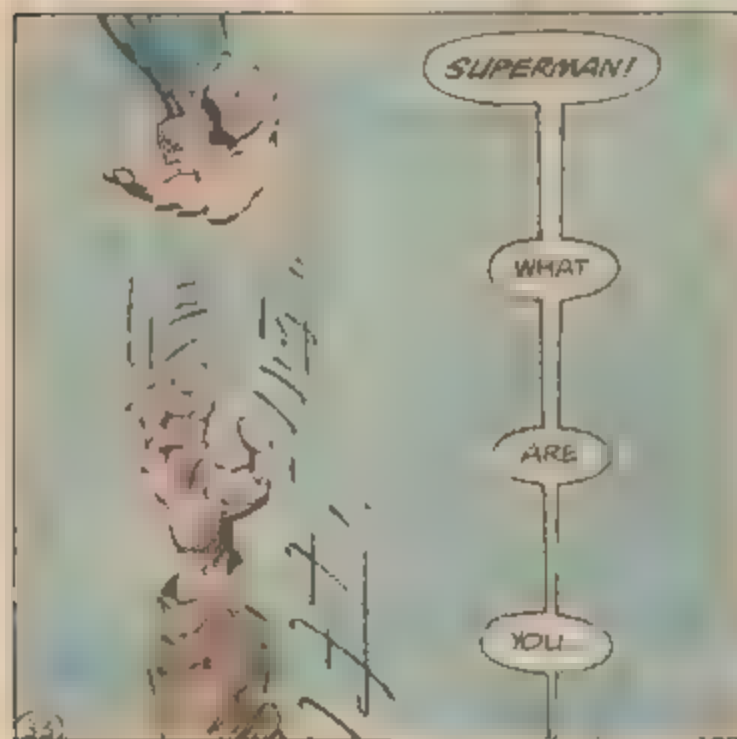
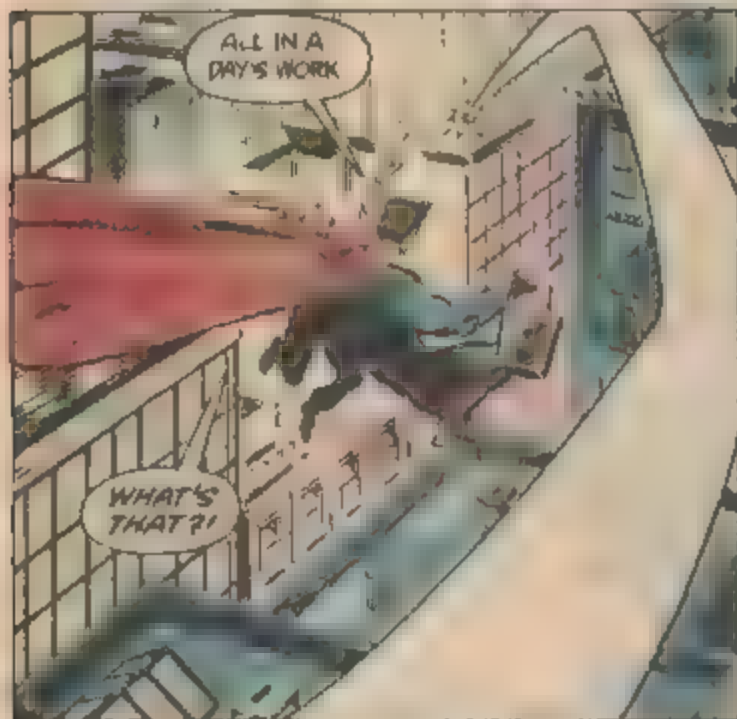
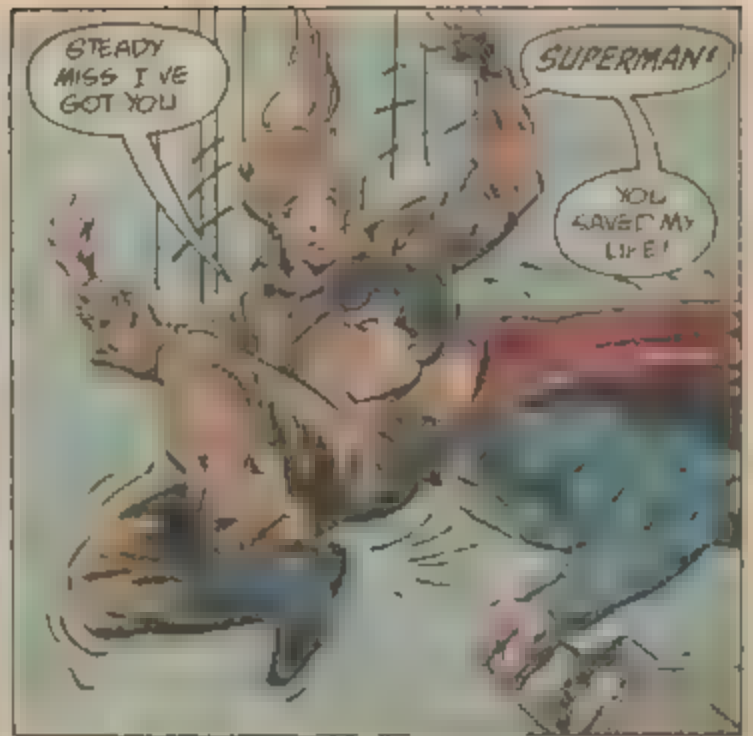
"MARVELOUS. PURE
ENERGY... I AM RENEWED!"

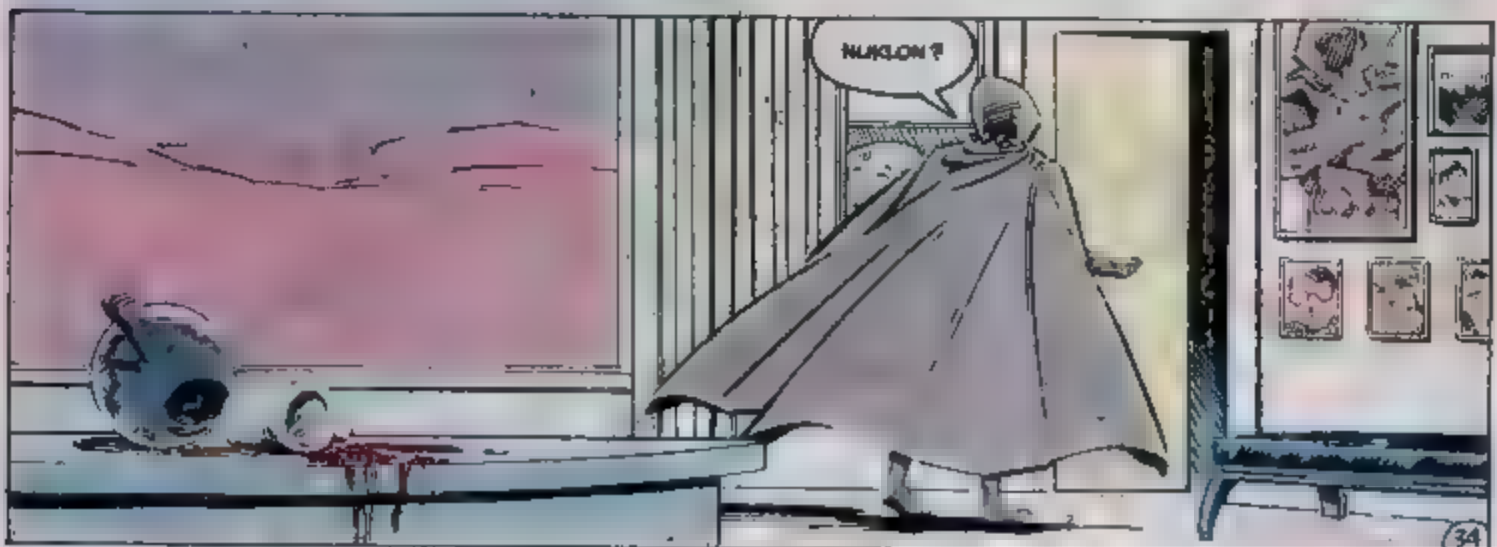
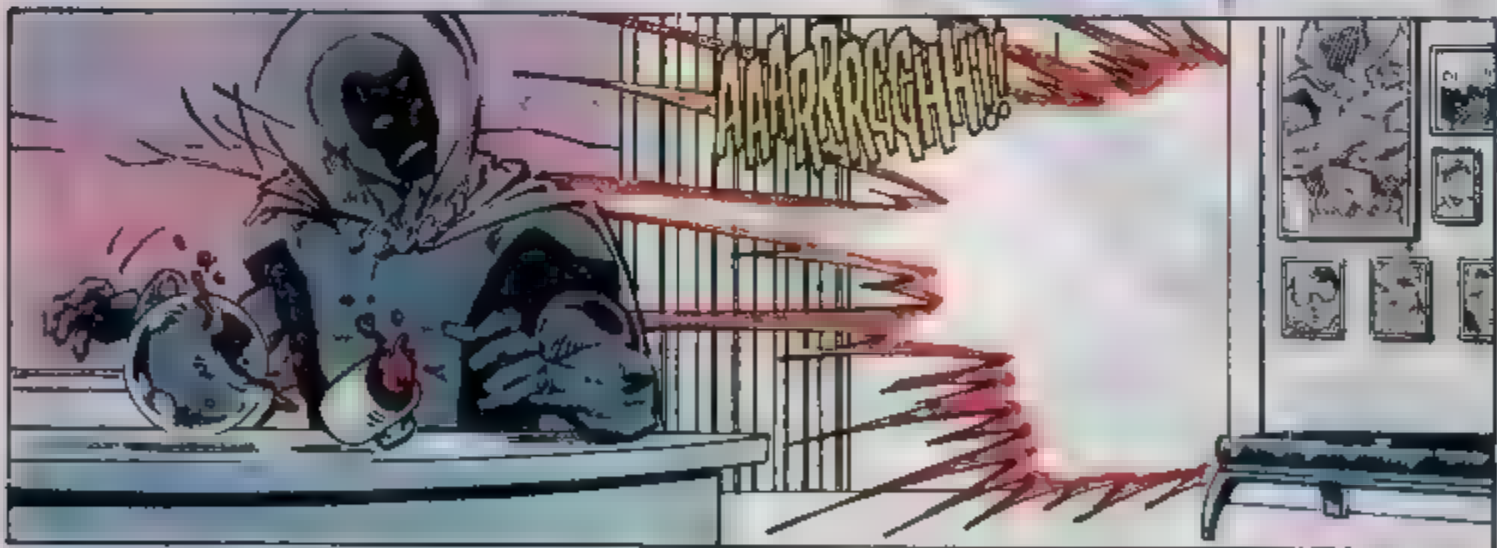
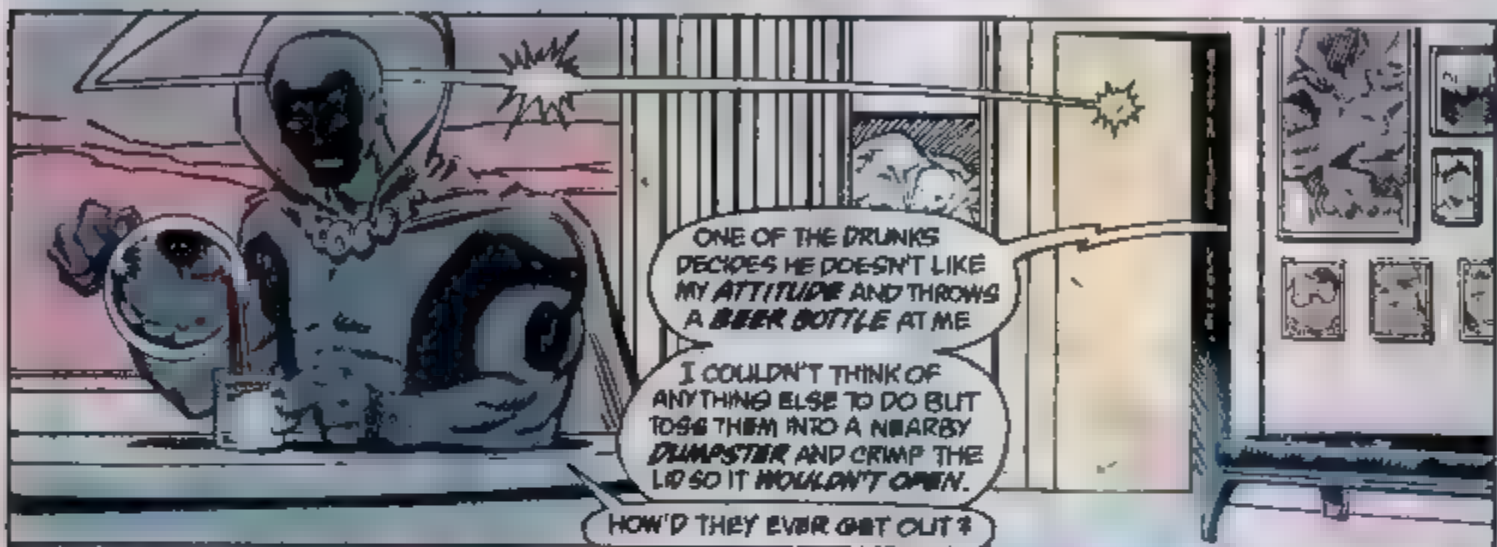
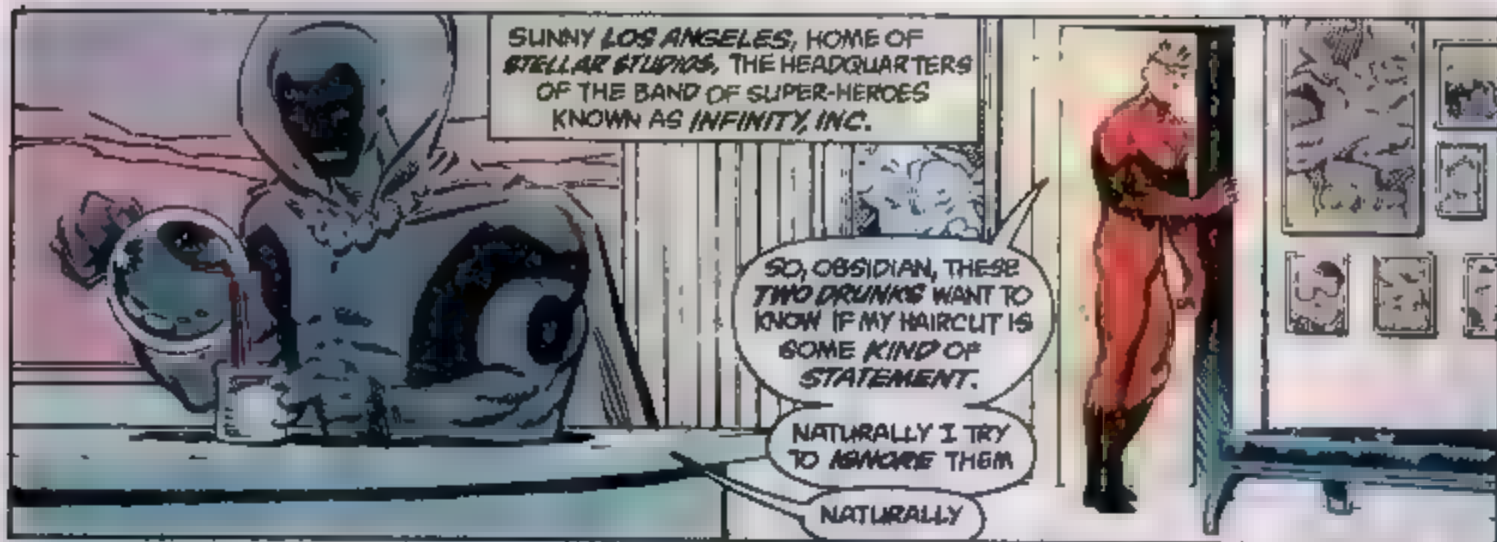
"WHAT NOW,
MY BROTHER?"

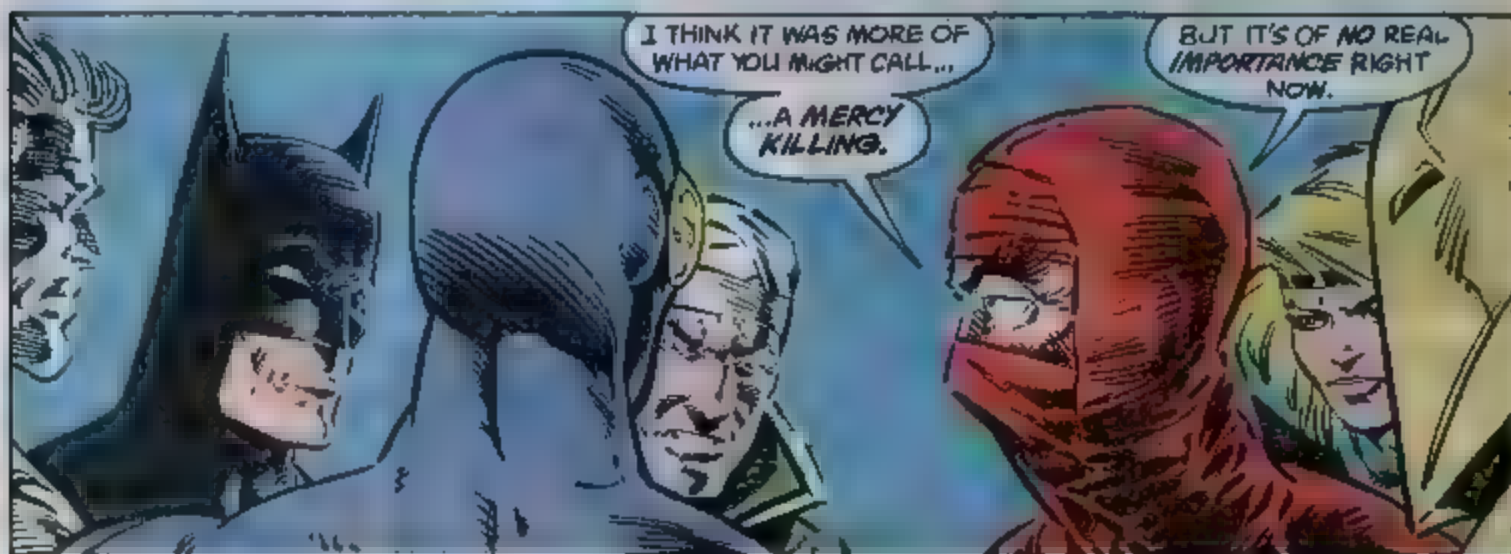
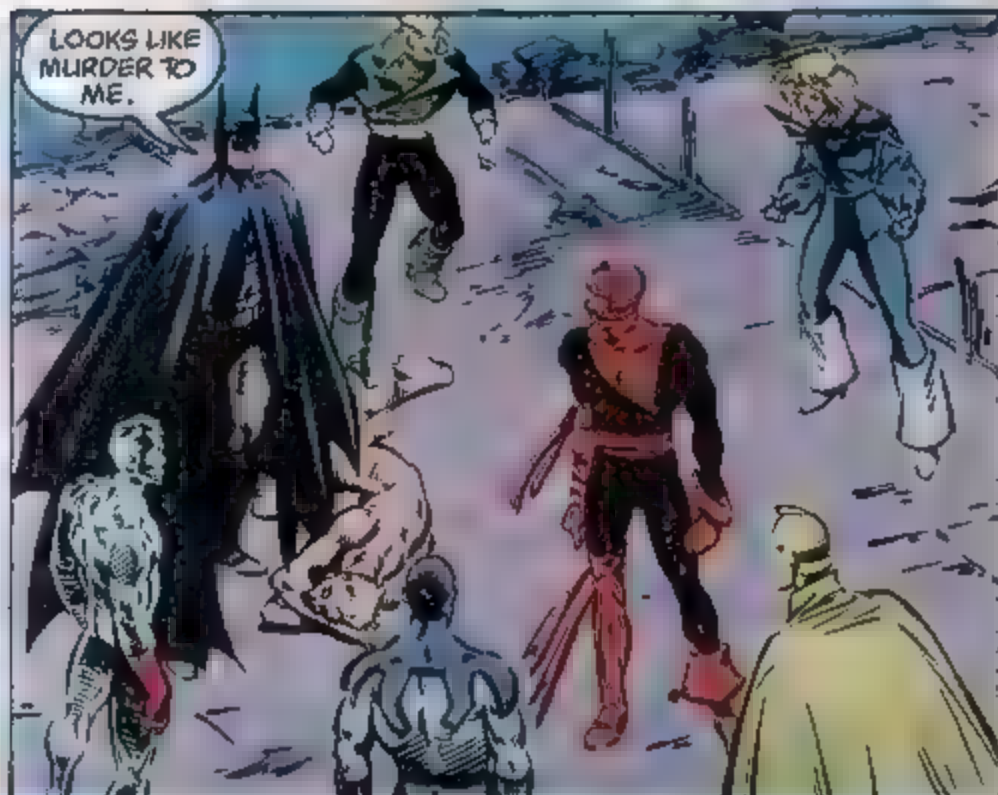
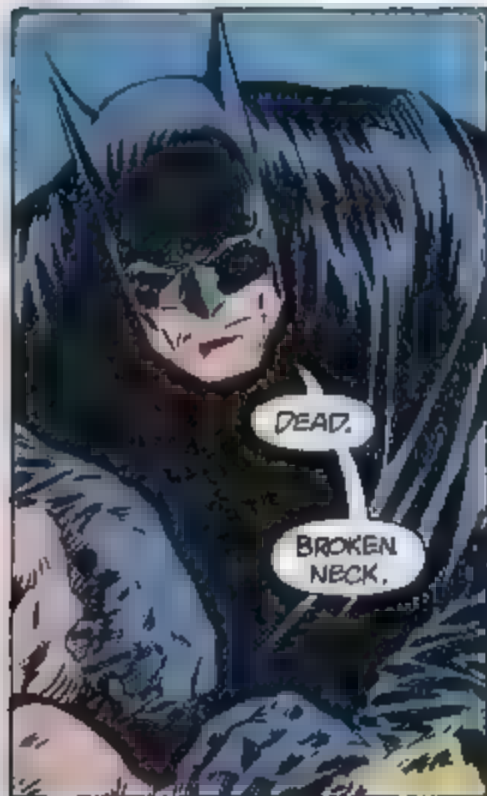


"LET US HEAD BACK
TO THE CITY WHENCE
WE CAME."

"WE ARE IN
NEED OF HOST
BODIES"



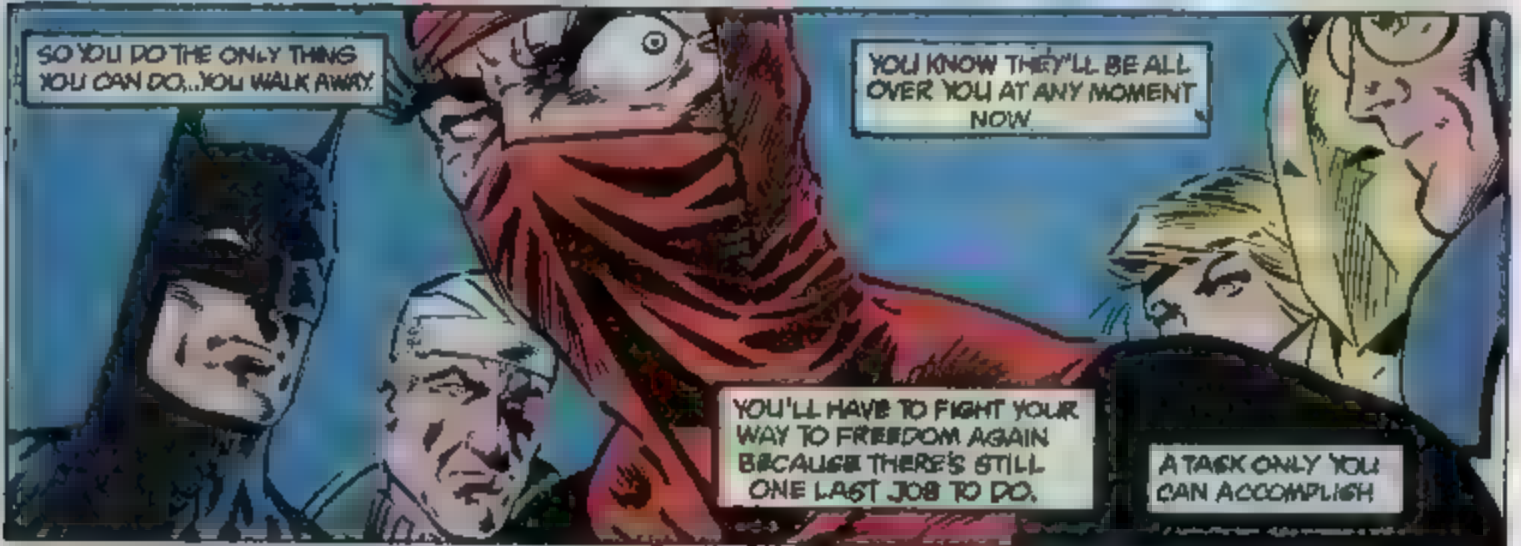






NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE YOU. THEIR MINDS ARE SET

THEY KNOW THERE IS A MENACE THREATENING THEIR WORLD AND THEY THINK YOU'RE IT.



SO YOU DO THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO...YOU WALK AWAY.

YOU KNOW THEY'LL BE ALL OVER YOU AT ANY MOMENT NOW.

YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGHT YOUR WAY TO FREEDOM AGAIN BECAUSE THERE'S STILL ONE LAST JOB TO DO.

A TASK ONLY YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH



BUT NOTHING HAPPENS

NO ONE TRIES TO STOP YOU...



THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE...

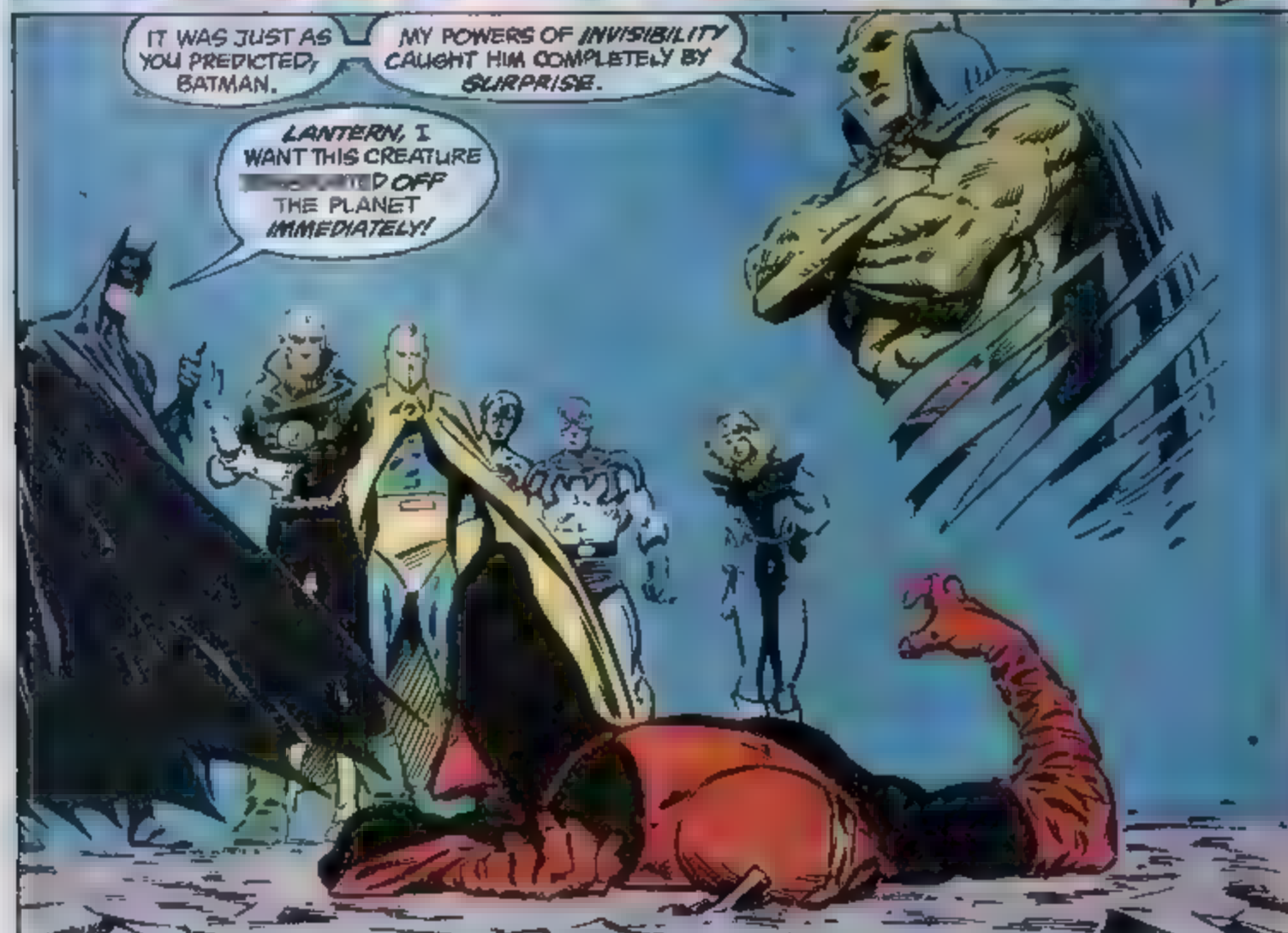
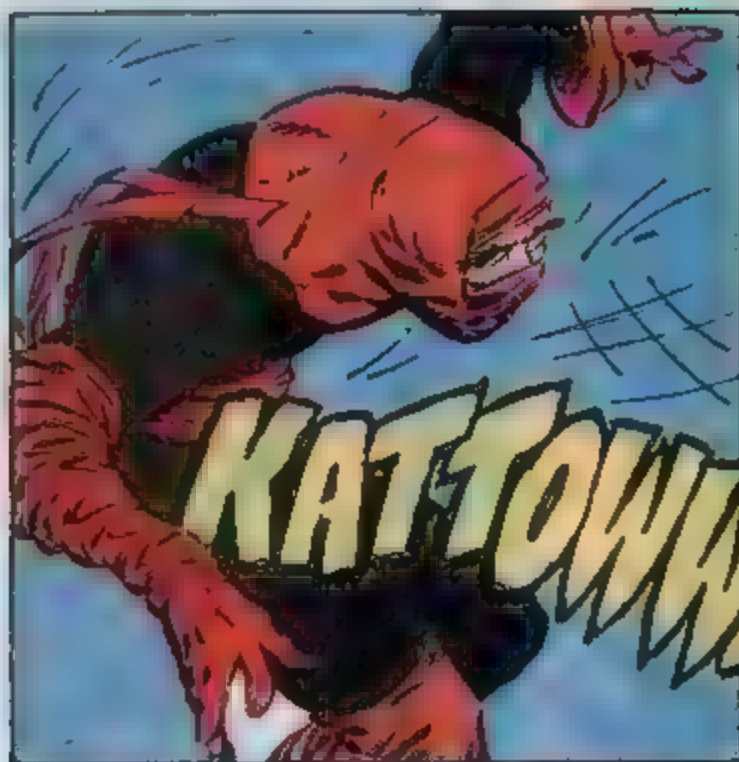


NOW, JONN.



JONN?! HE'S THE GREEN ONE...

WHERE?





HE'S KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS **BATMAN**,
A VIGILANTE AND A MAN OF ACTION. BUT
RIGHT NOW, HE'S A MAN IN TROUBLE AND
IN NEED OF ANSWERS.

AND THE ANSWERS HE SEEKS CAN ONLY
BE OBTAINED FROM THE **STRANGE BEINGS**
KNOWN ONLY AS...

THE WEIRD

WAKE
UP!

WAKE
UP AND
TALK!

WHAT...
WHAT'S GOING
ON?

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AWAY
FROM ME,
HUMANOID!

THAT'S WHAT
I WANT TO KNOW,
FRIEND!

SO TALK AND
TALK FAST! WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO SUPERMAN
AND NUKLON?!

MACROLATIS ..

SUPERMAN,
WHAT IS WRONG?
WHY ARE YOU
ATTACKING
US?

BATMAN,
WE COULD USE
YOUR HELP HERE..
NOW!

WHAT THE
DEVIL IS GOING
ON HERE?

I THOUGHT
SUPEES AND MOHAWK
HERE WERE GOOD
GUYS?!

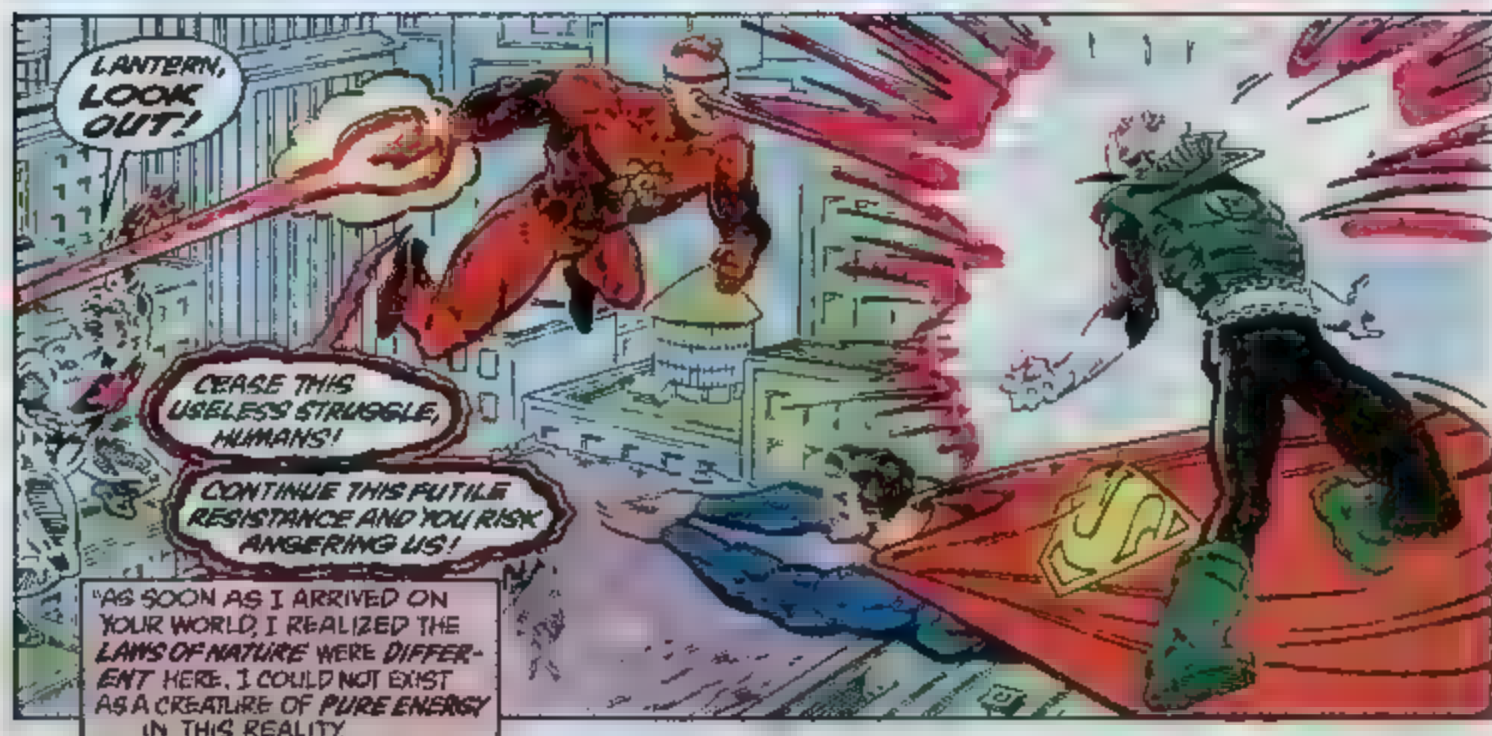
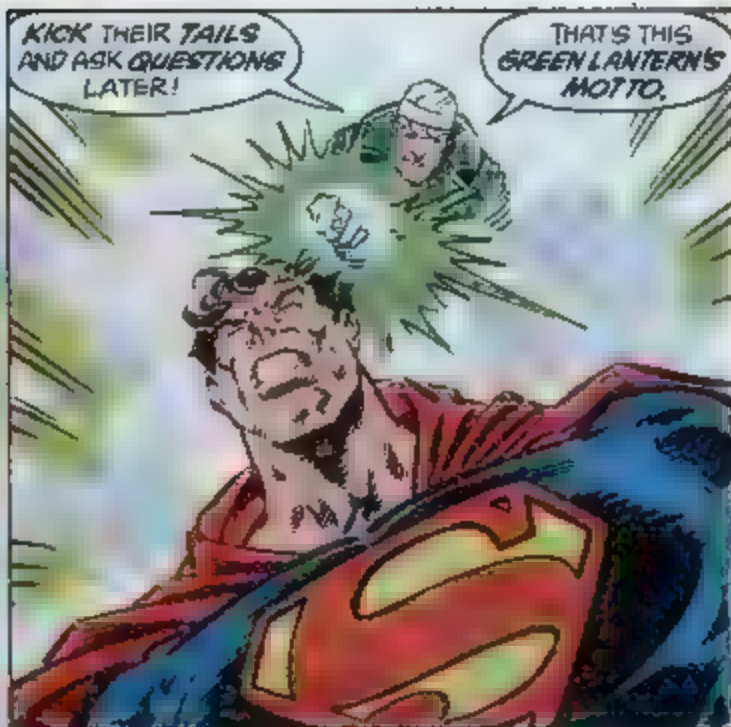
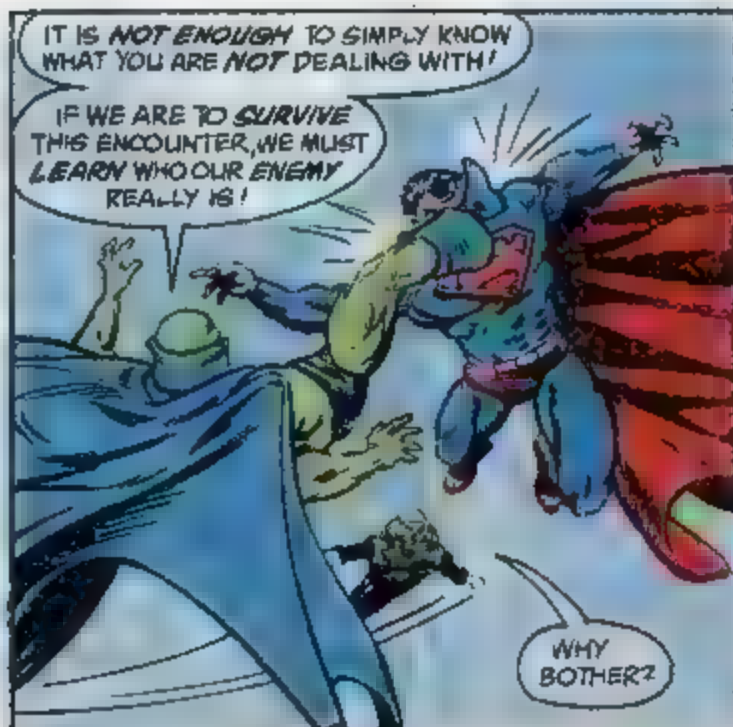
IT IS A TIME FOR COMBAT,
A TIME TO FIGHT FOR LIFE
AND LIBERTY, FOR ON THE
HOR ZON LOOMS .

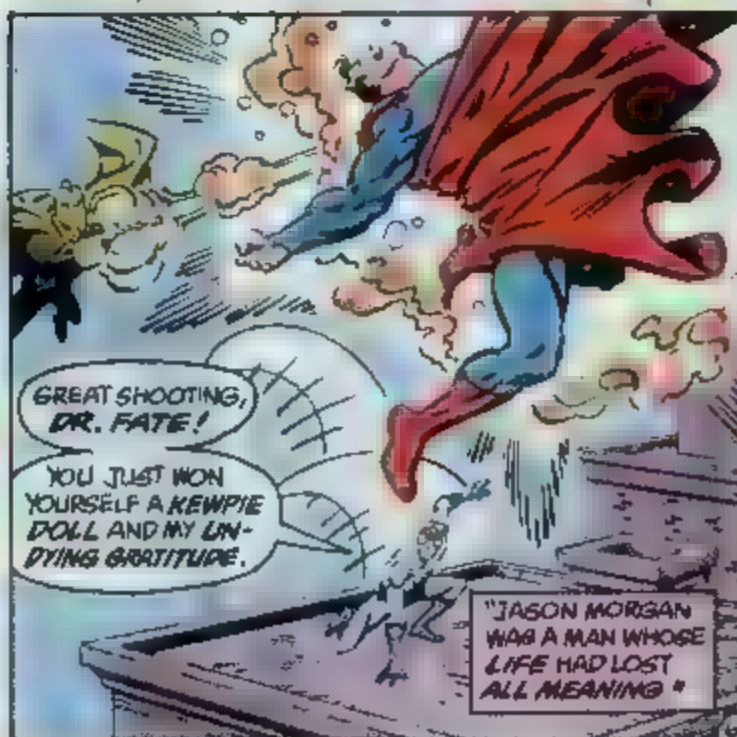
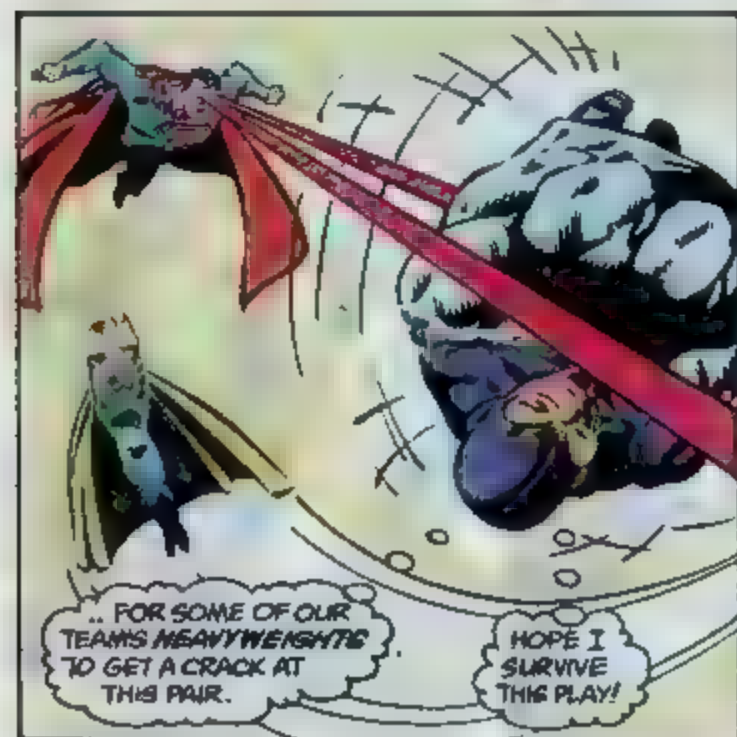
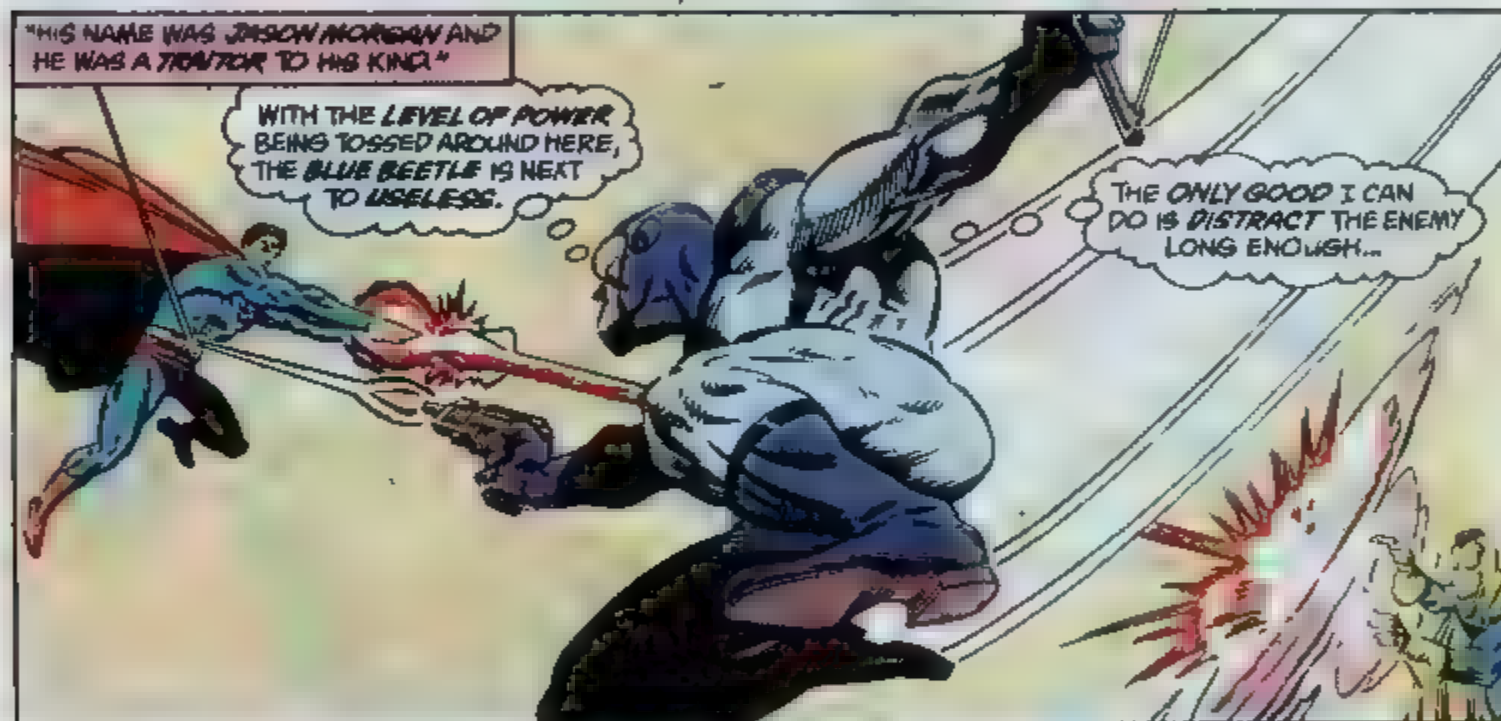
...ARMAGEDDON!

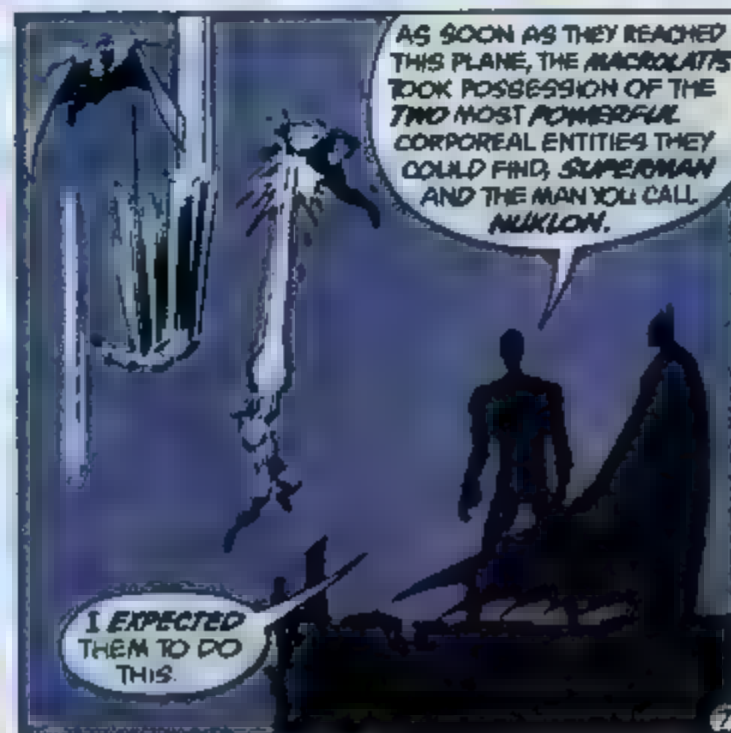
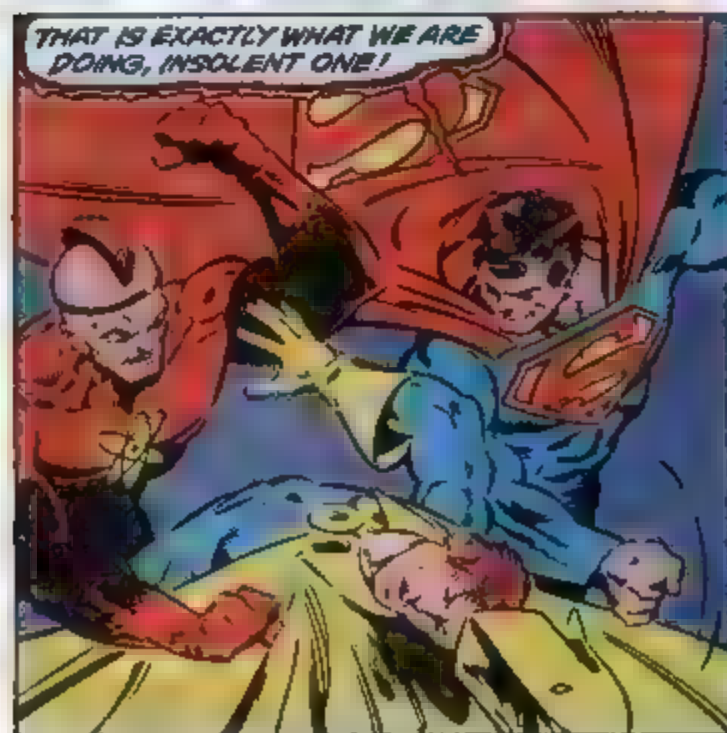
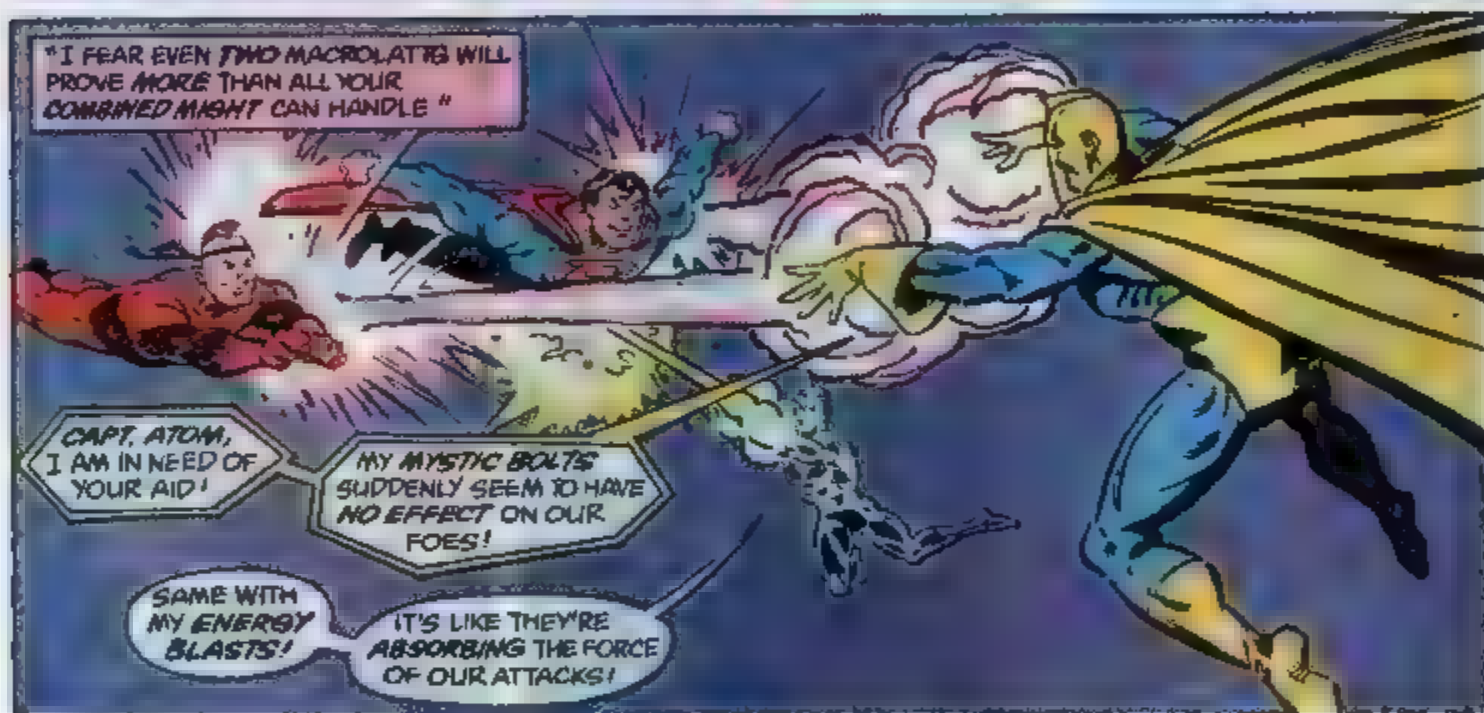
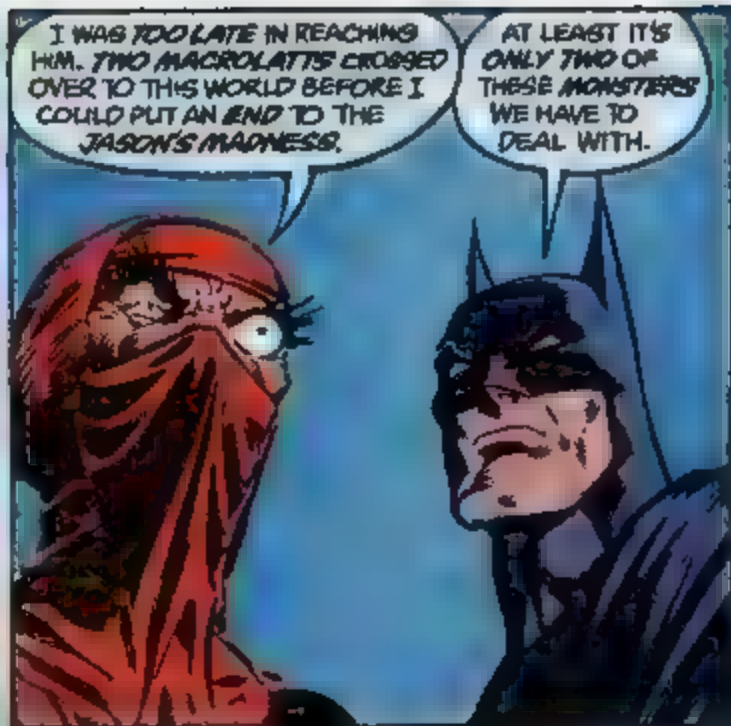
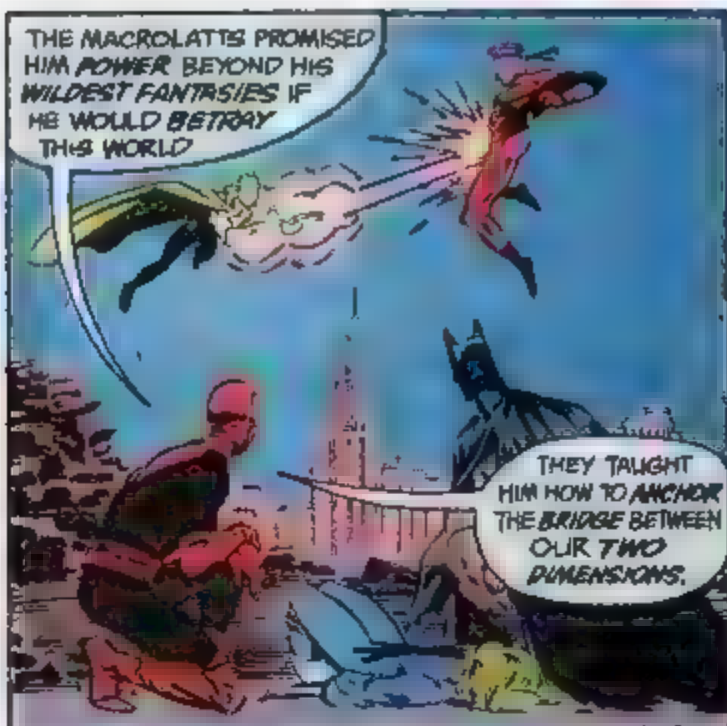
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JIM STARLIN BERNI WRIGHTSON

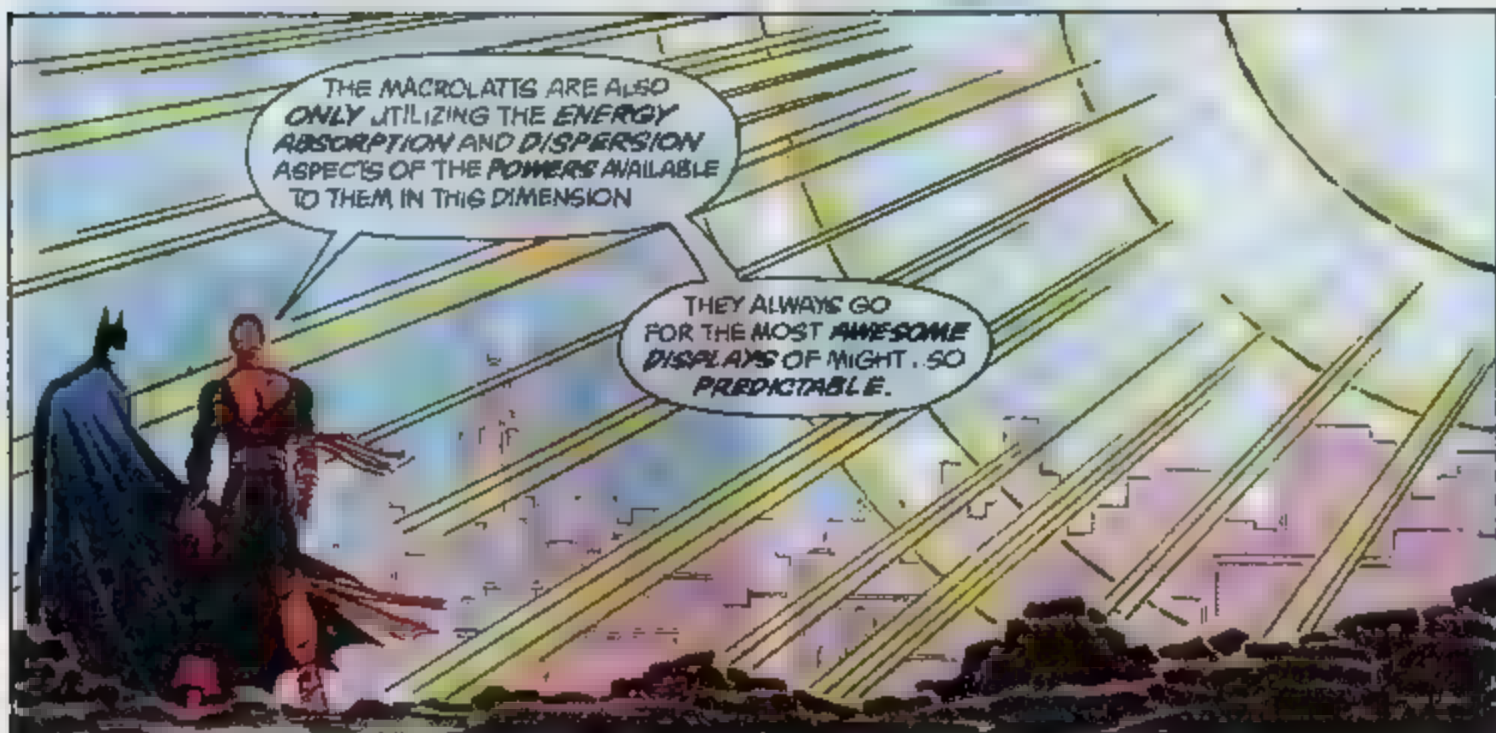
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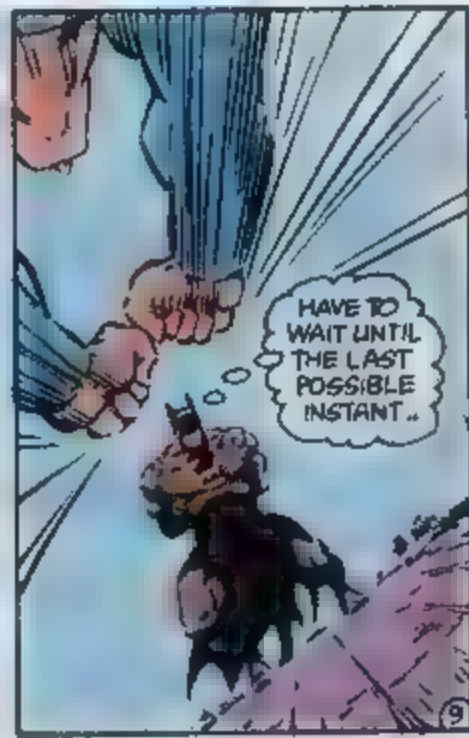
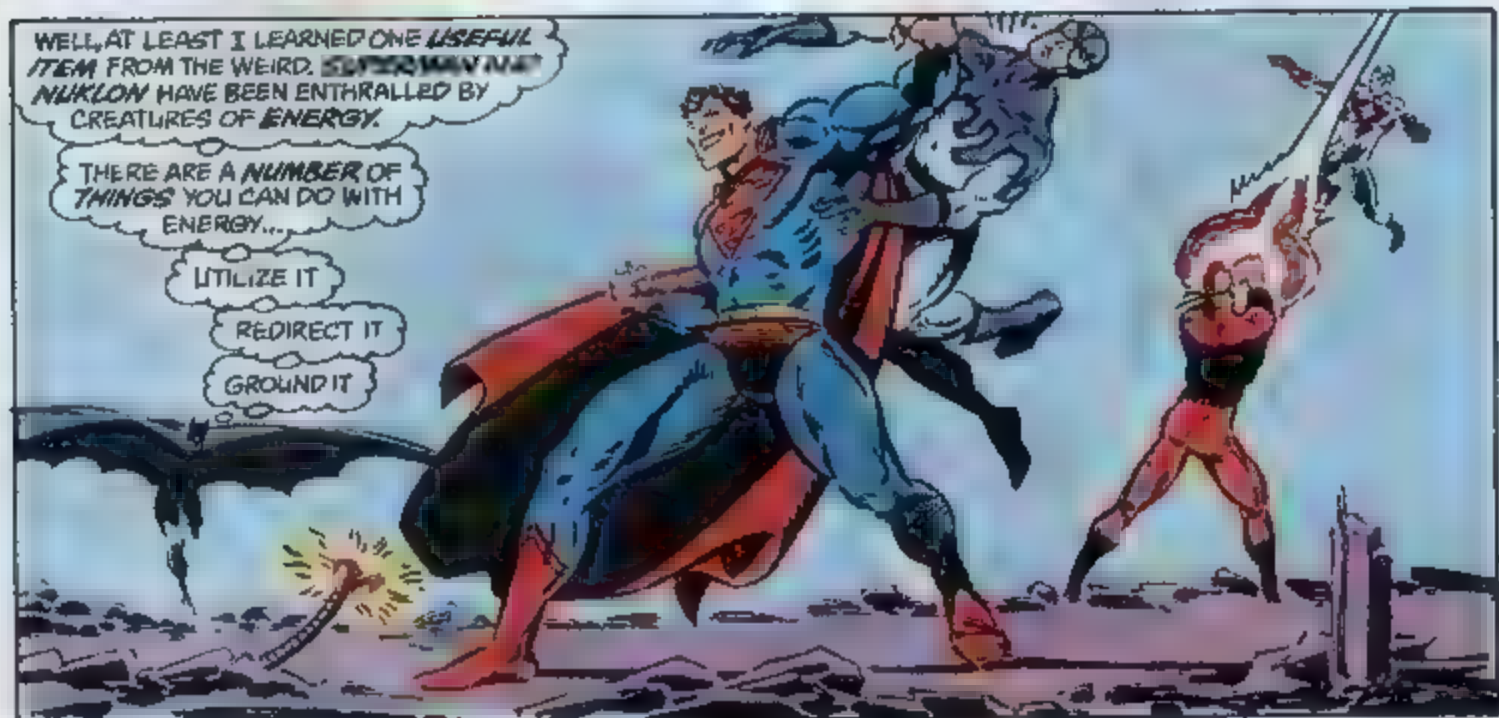
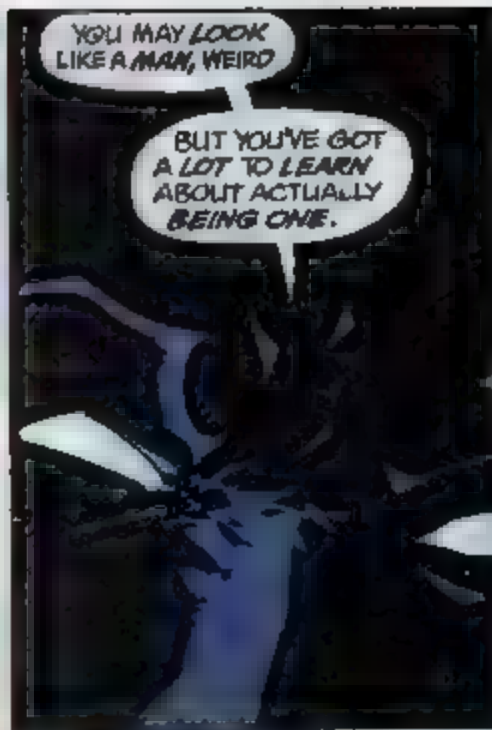
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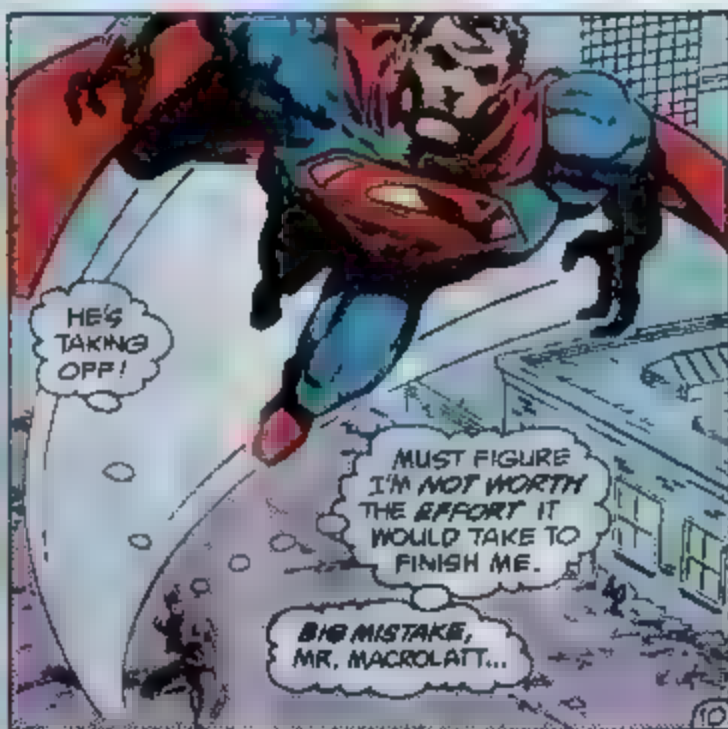
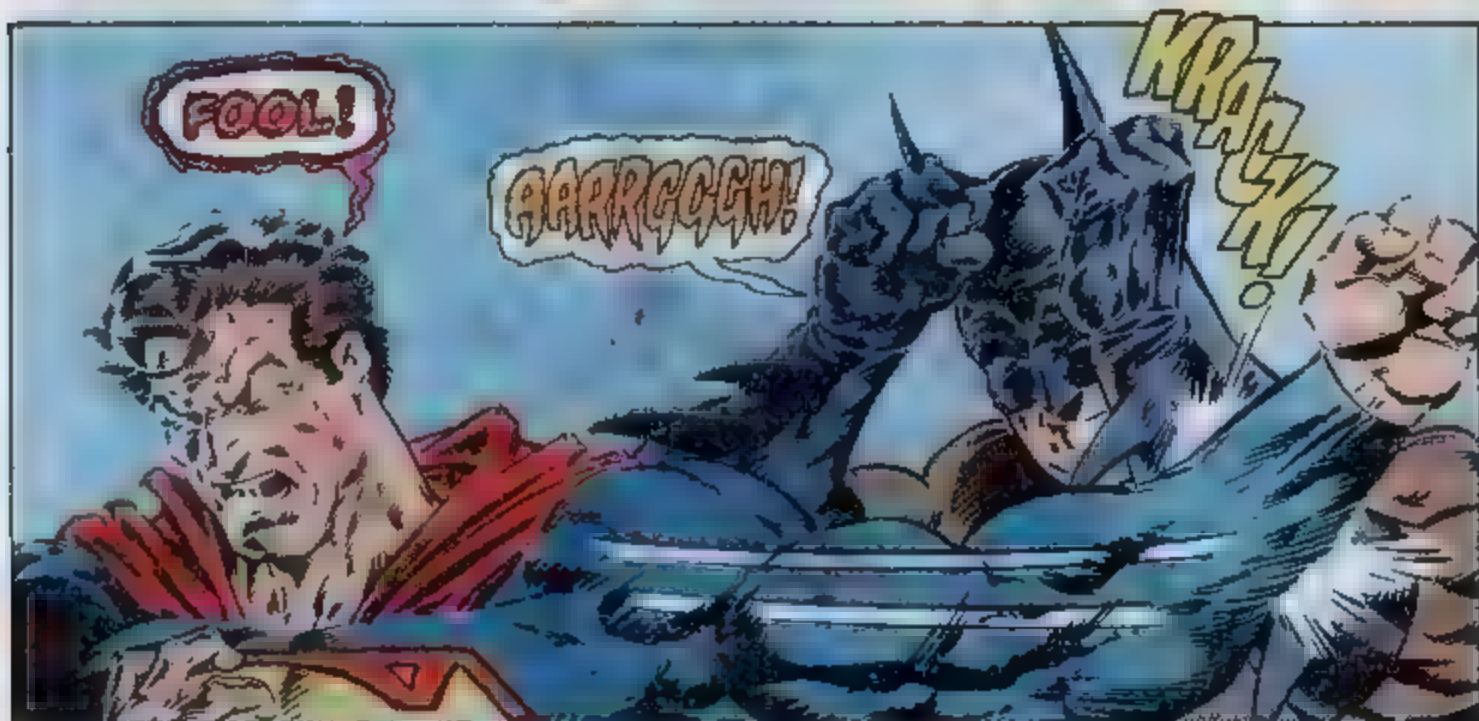
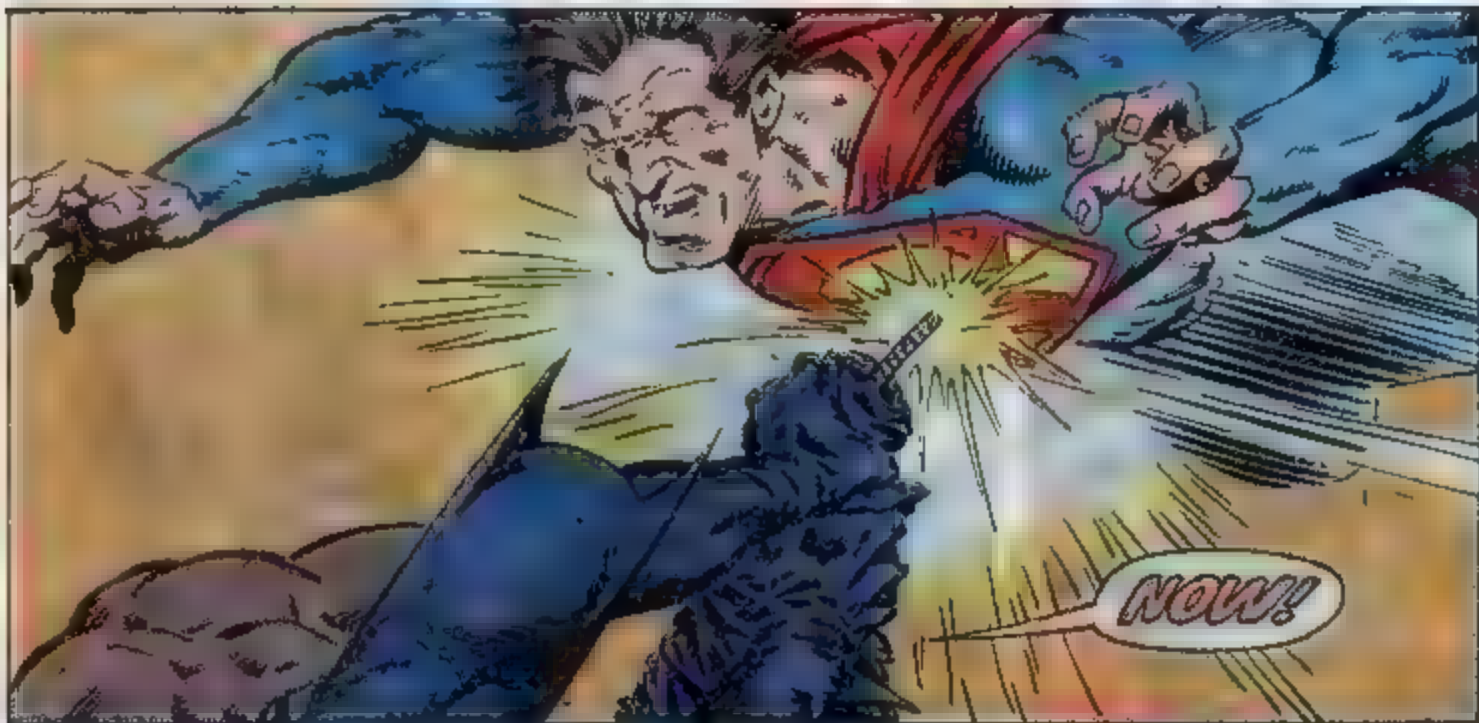


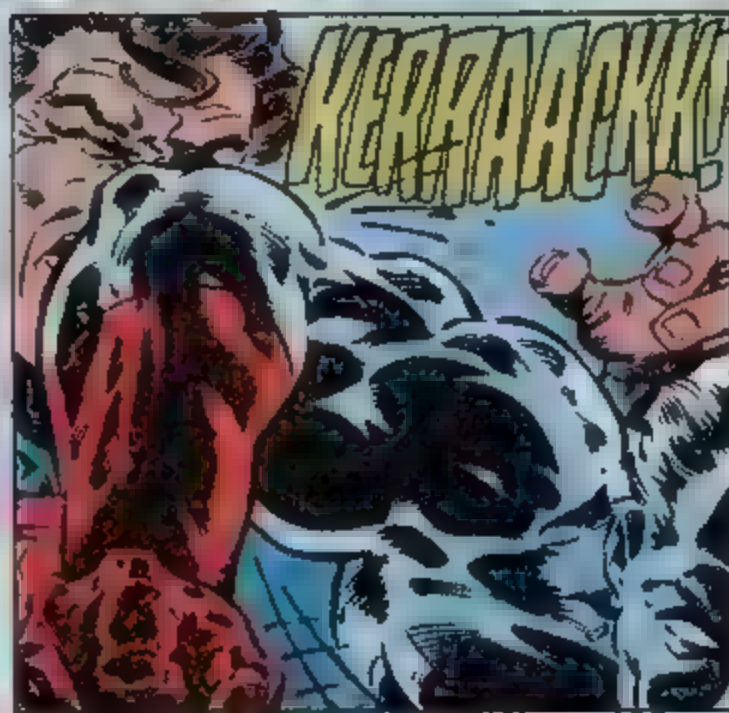
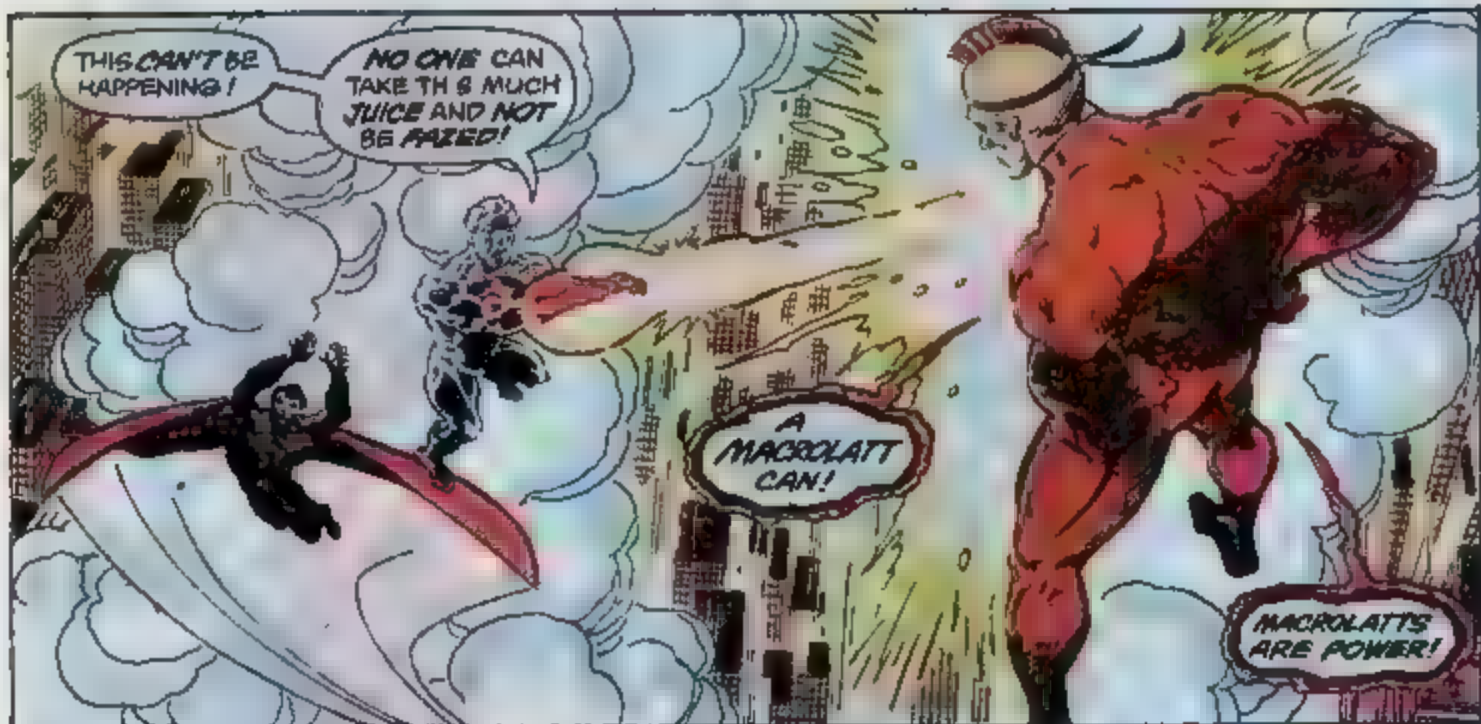




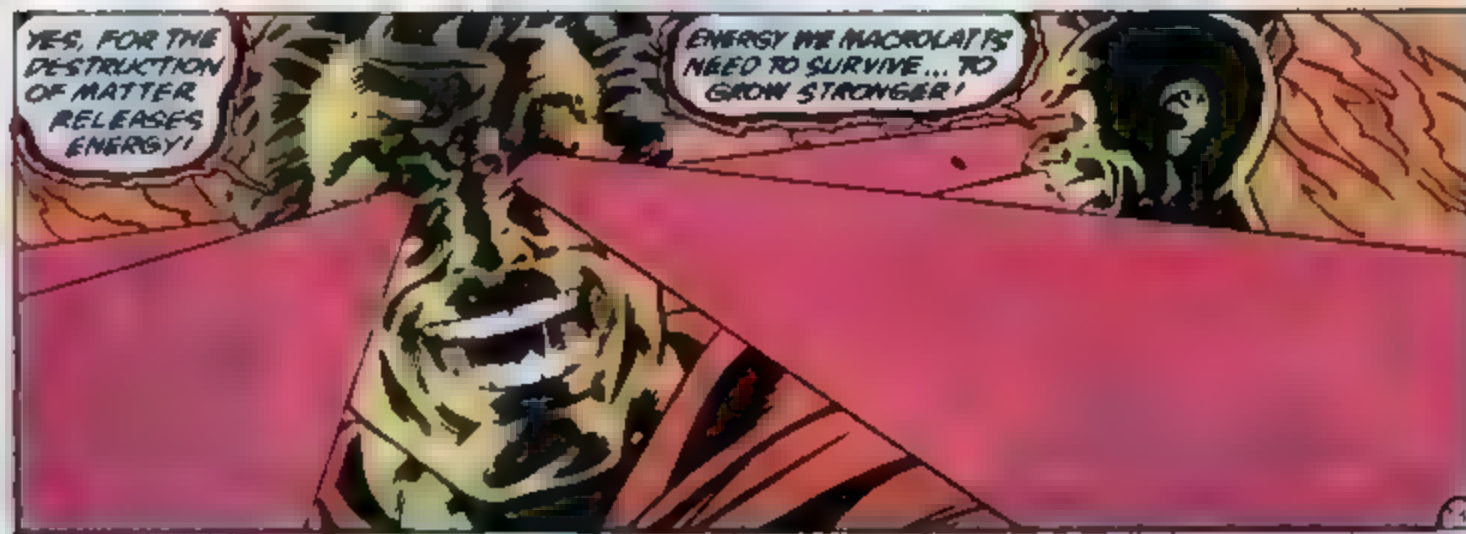


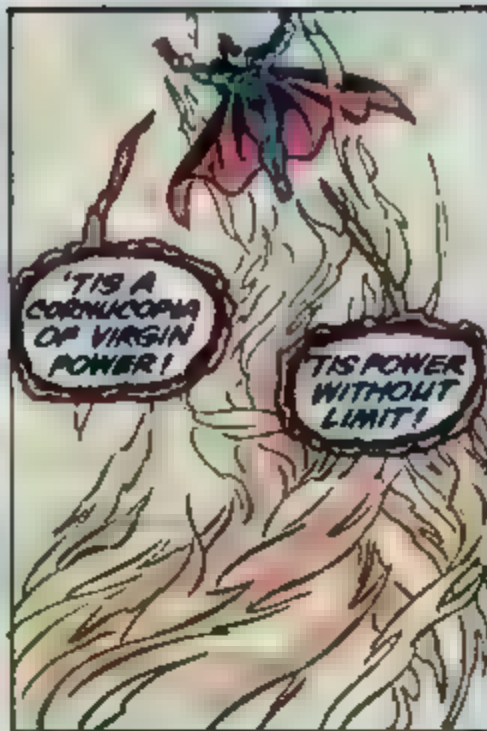


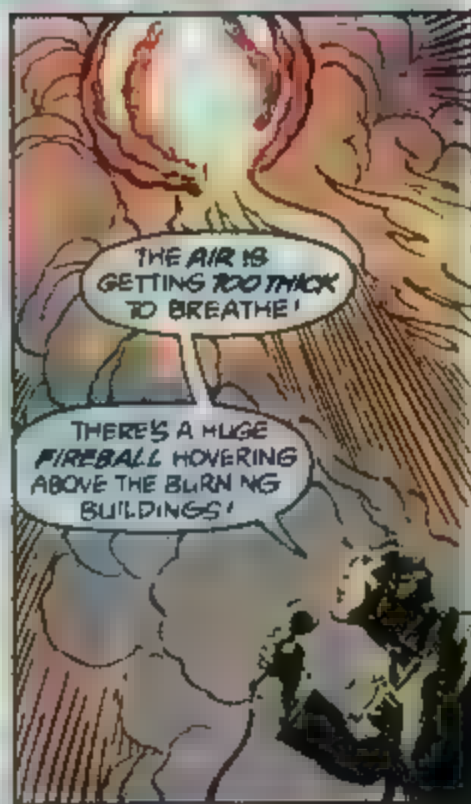
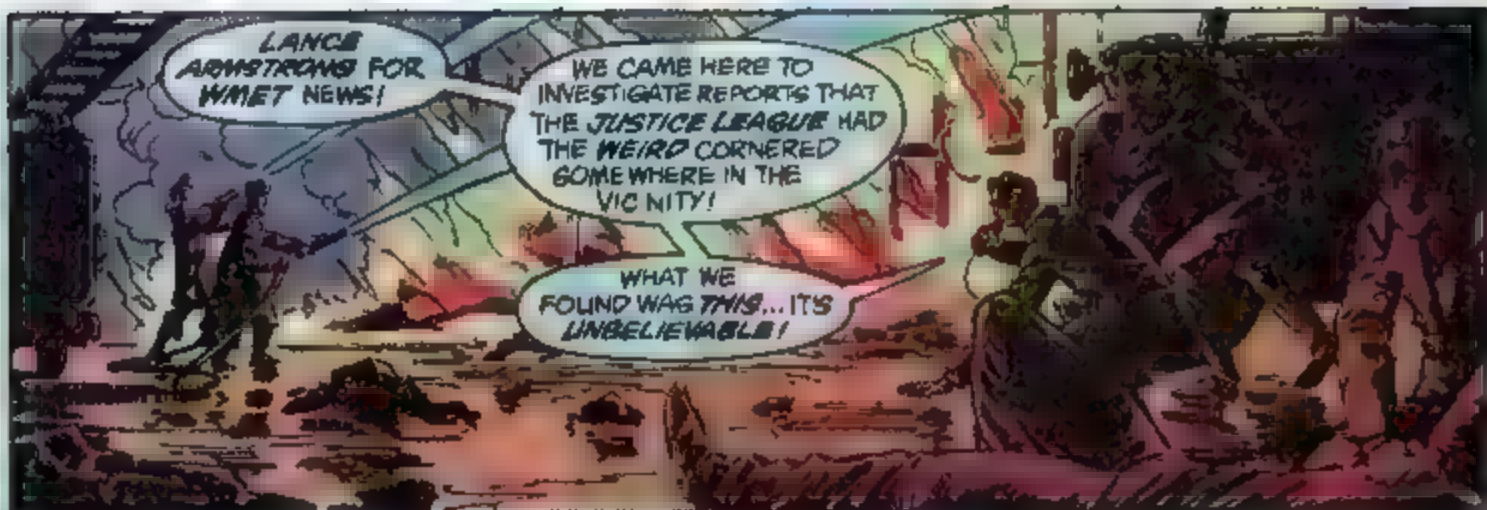


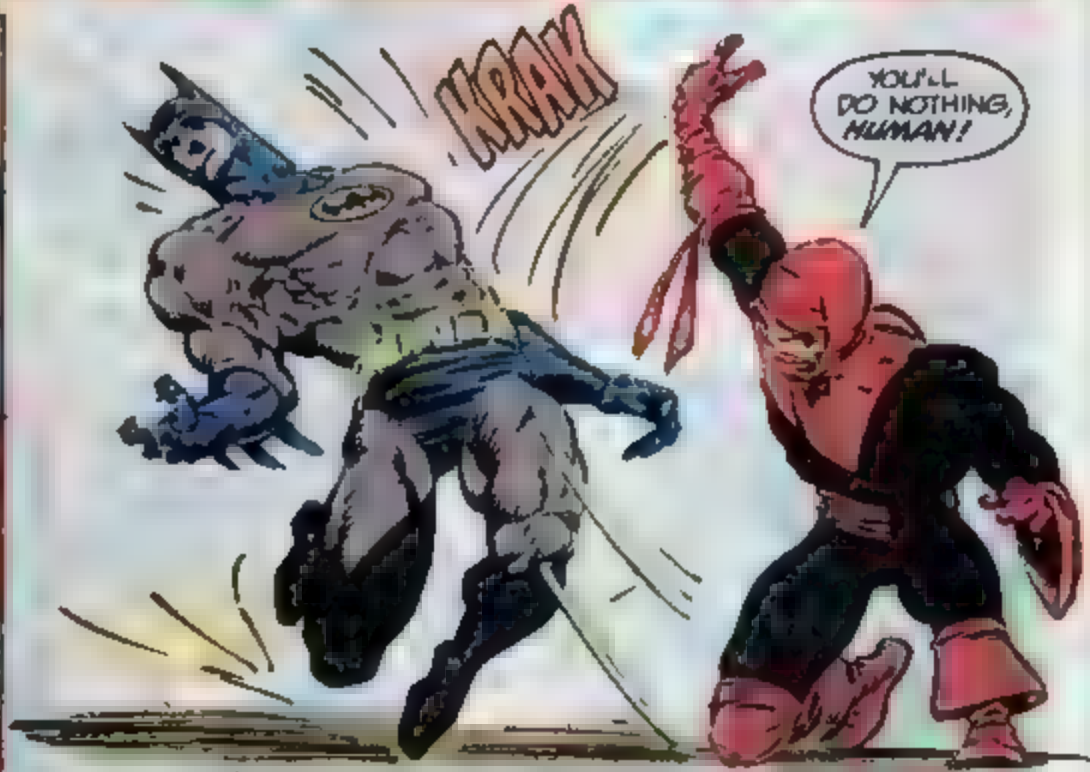
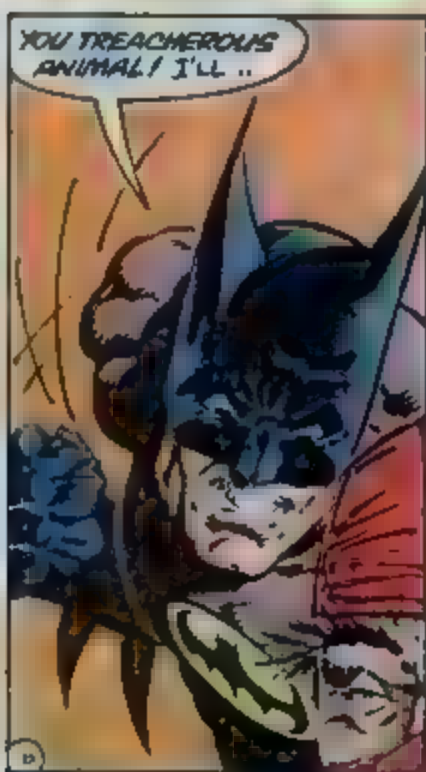
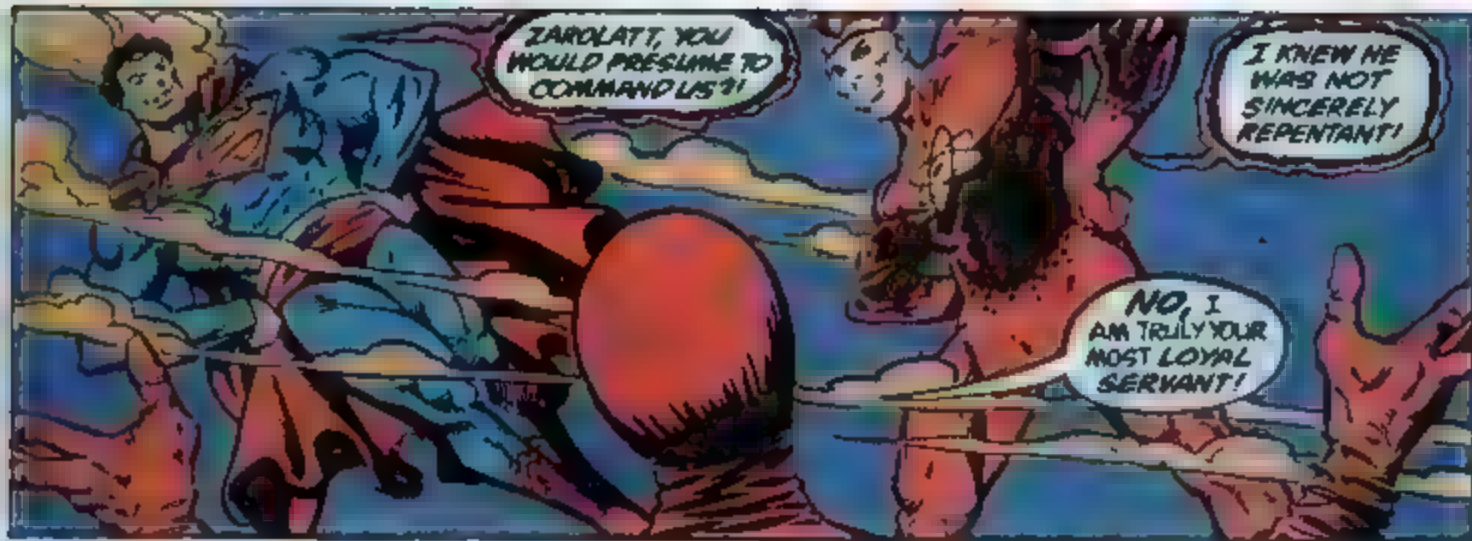


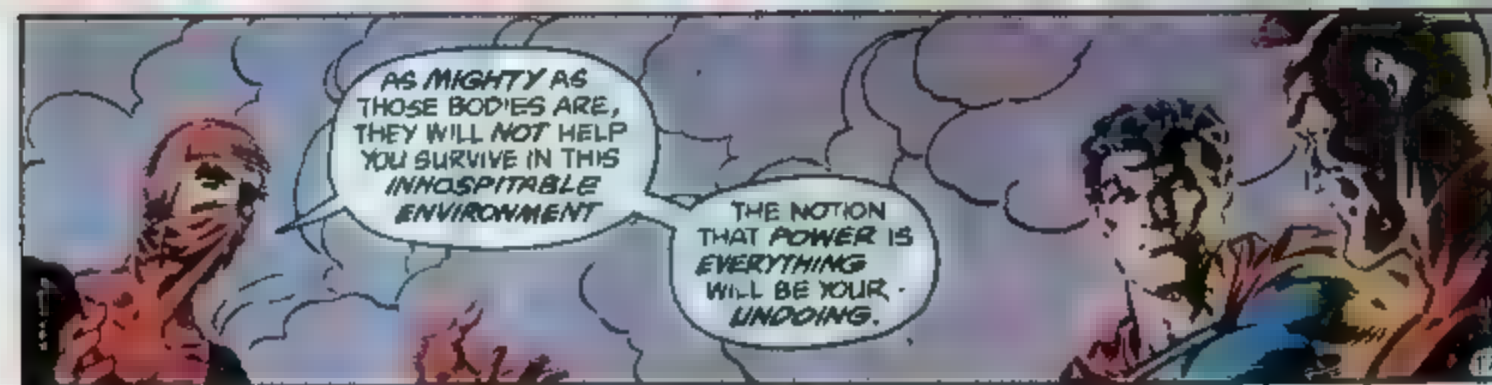
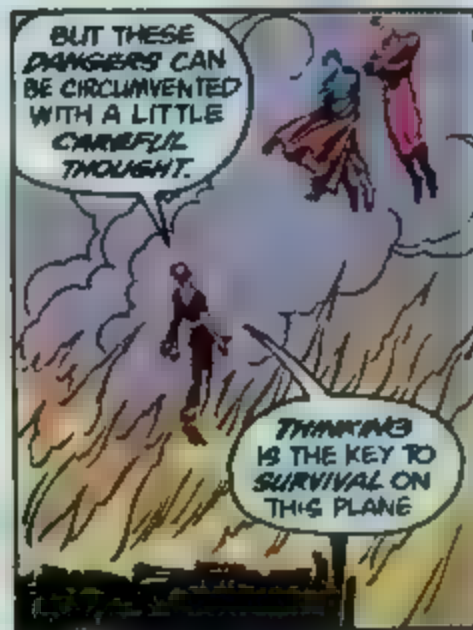
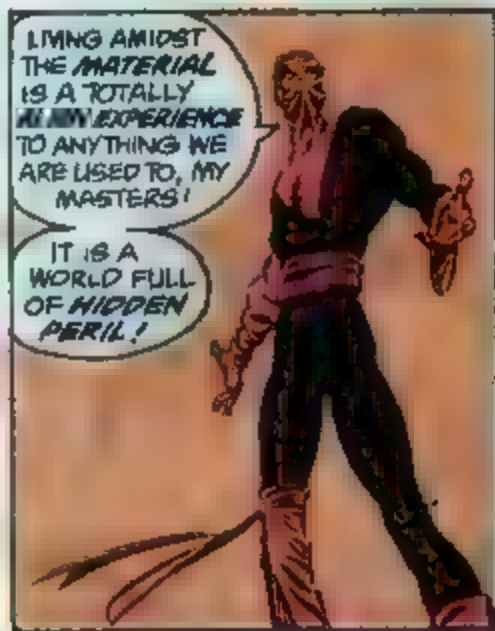


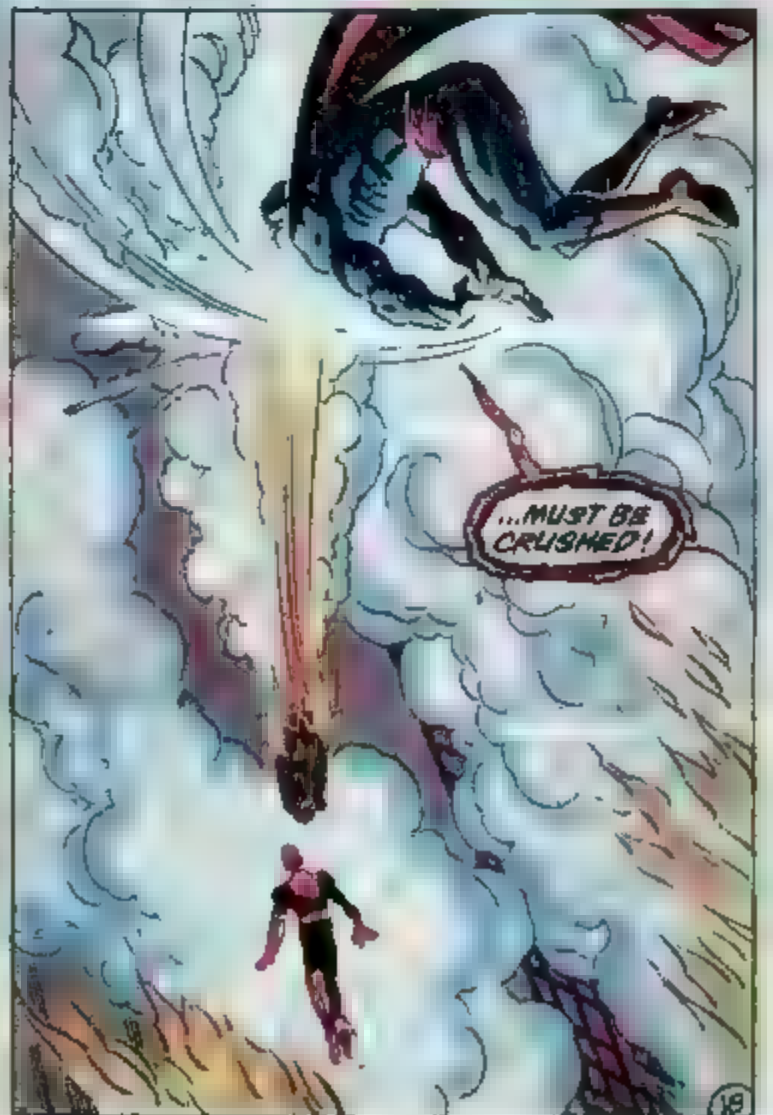
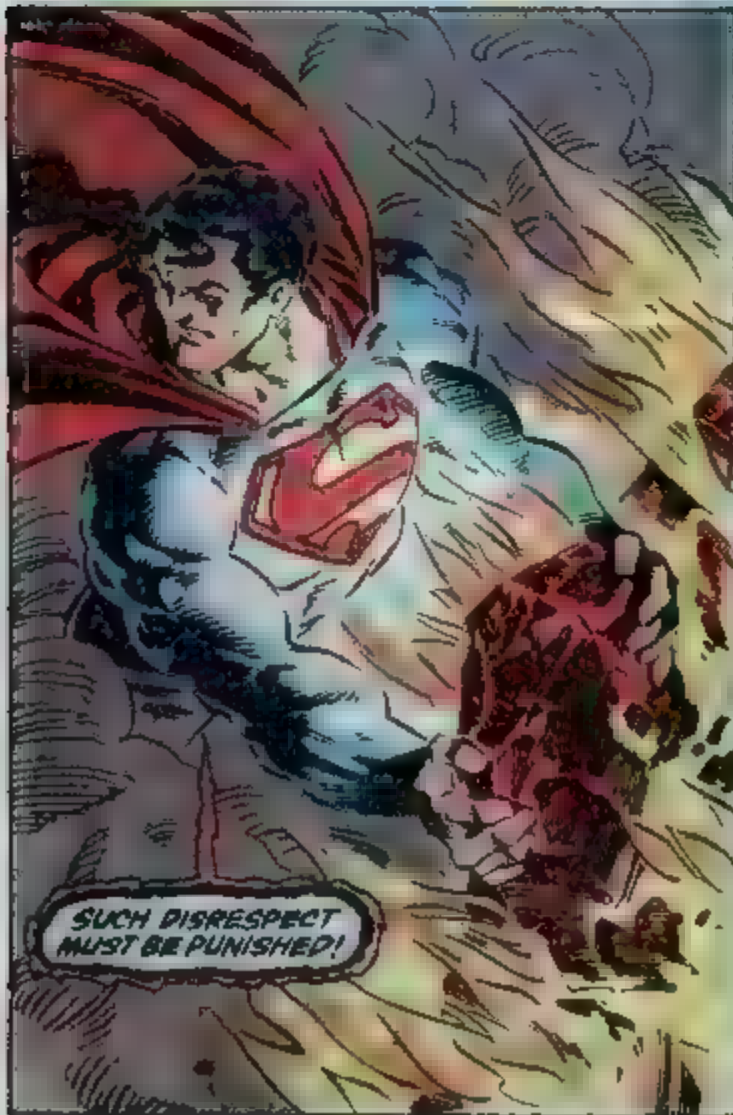
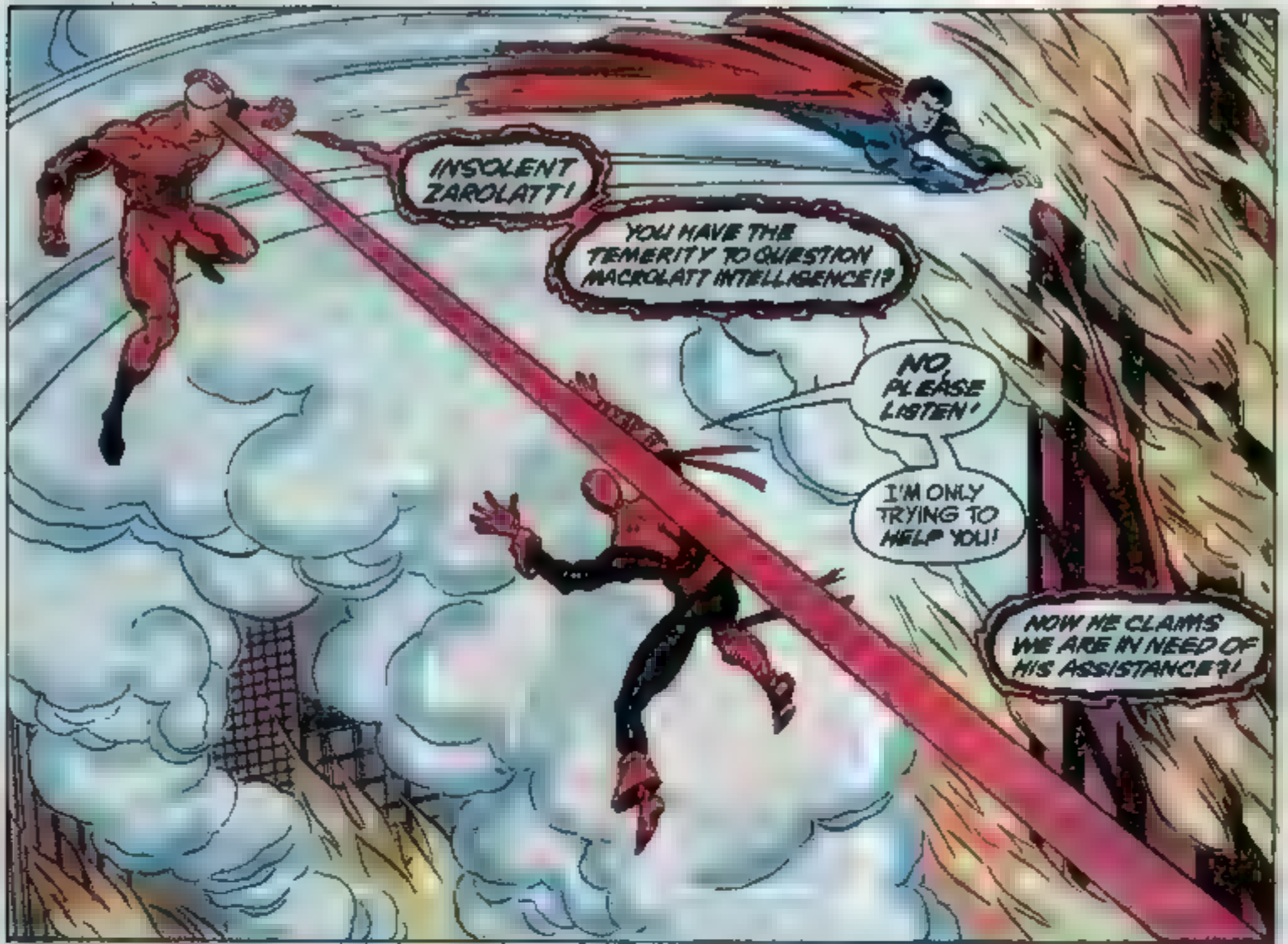


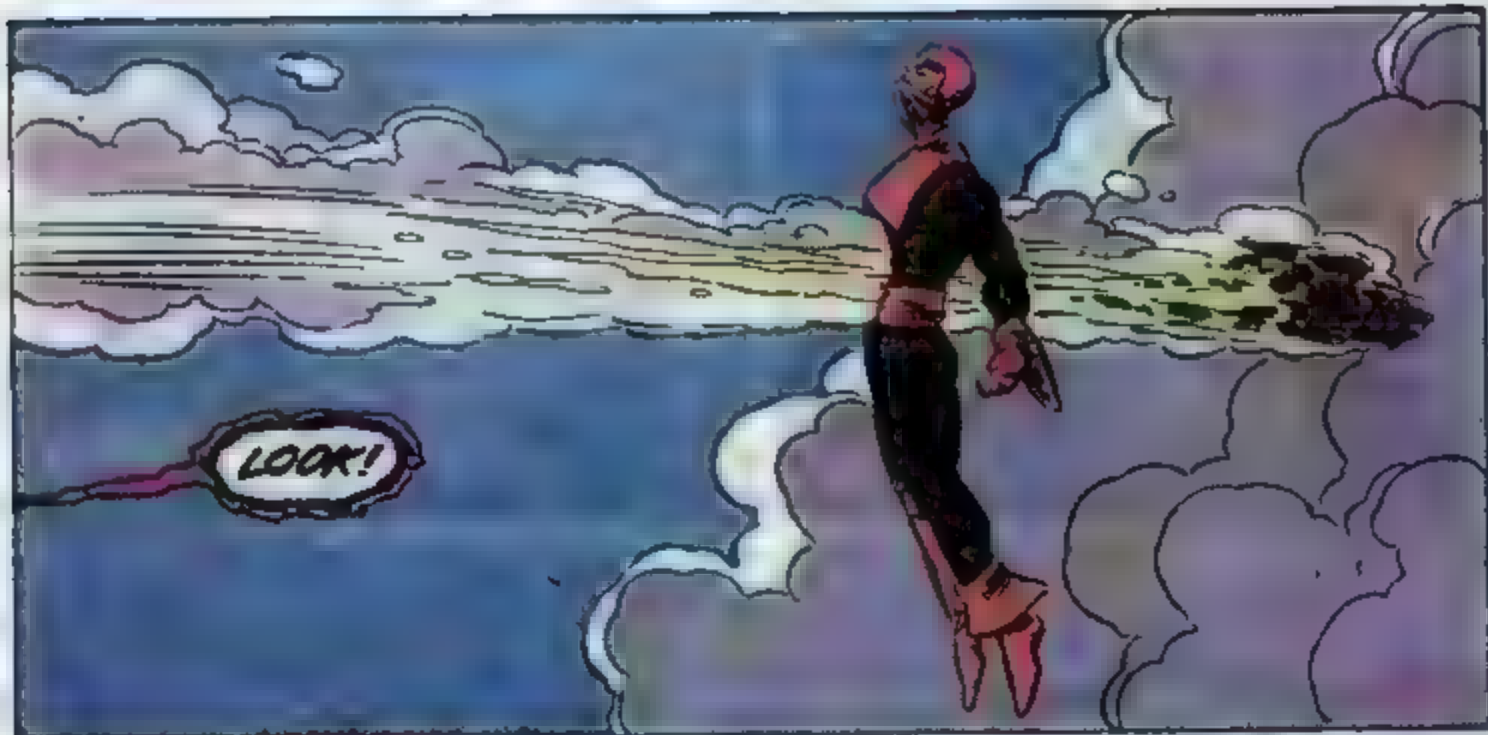












HE HAS CHANGED THE DENSITY OF HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE!

IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE!



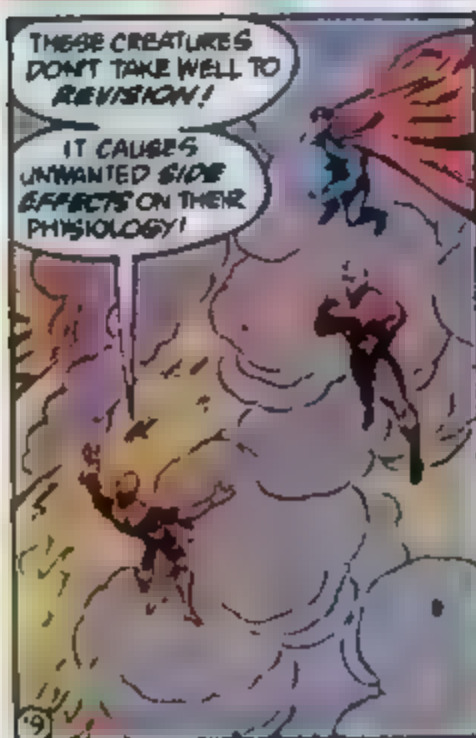
WE CAN ALTER THESE BODIES TO DO THE SAME!

THEN WE SHALL DESTROY THIS UNFAITHFUL CUR!



NO, WAIT! THERE'S NO NEED!

BODILY ALTERATION IS A DANGEROUS THING TO DO!



THESE CREATURES DON'T TAKE WELL TO REVISION!

IT CAUSES UNWANTED SIDE EFFECTS ON THEIR PHYSIOLOGY!



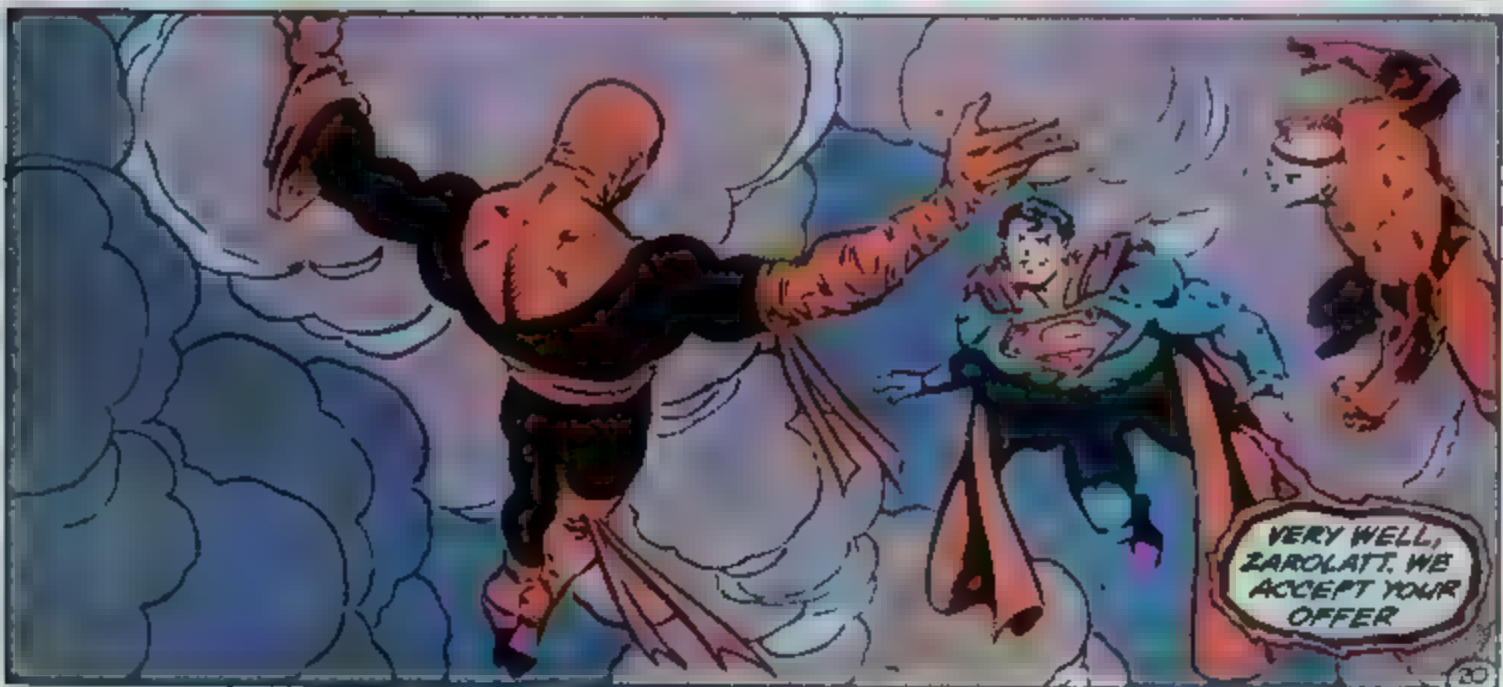
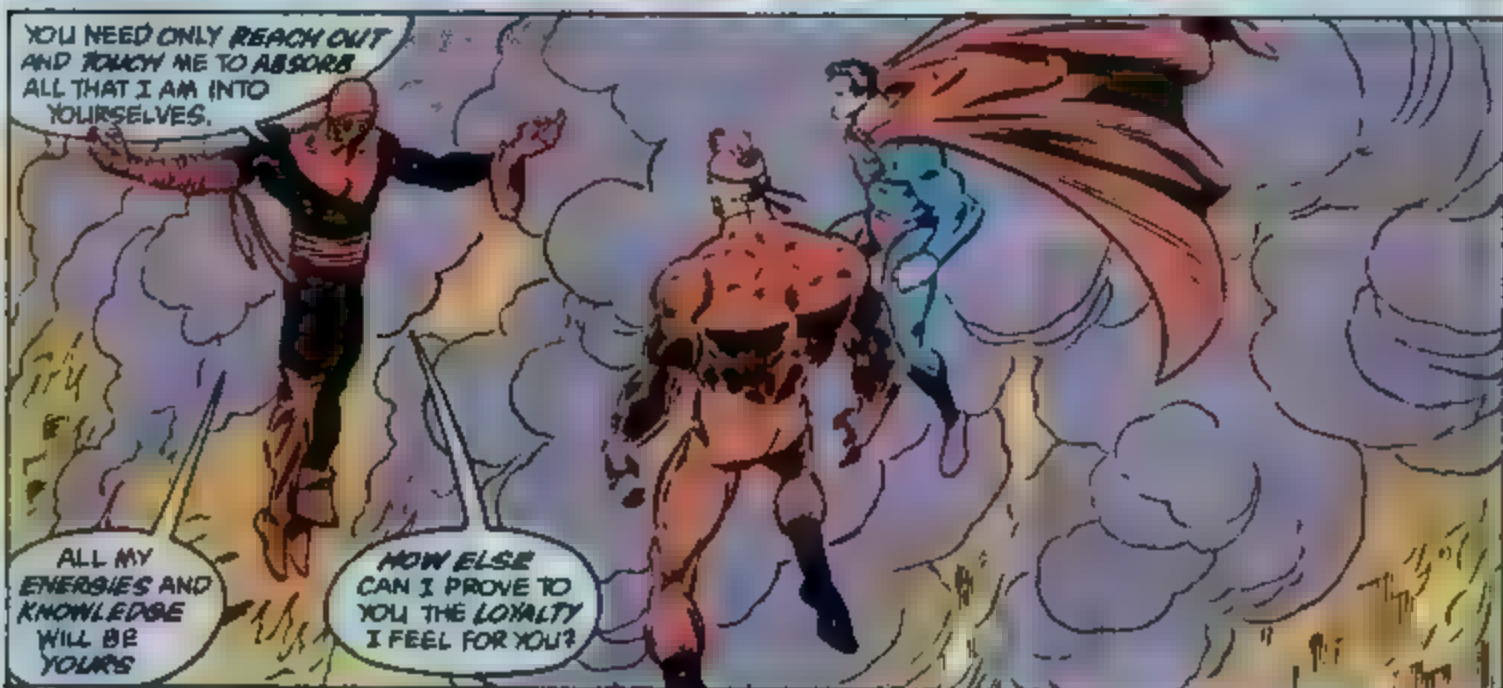
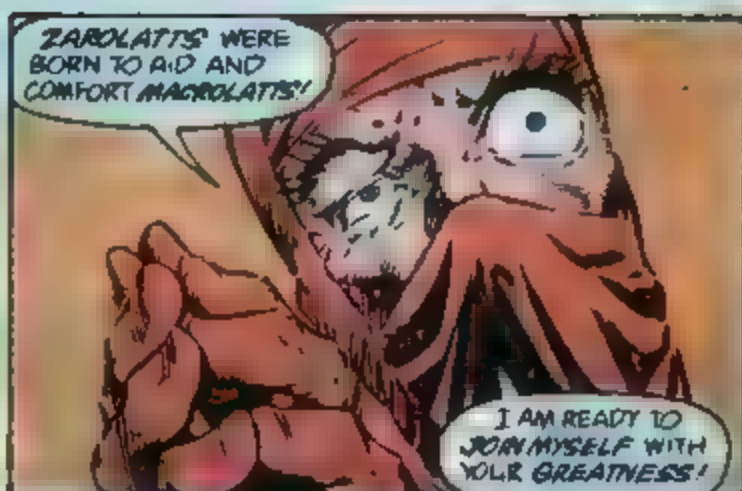
THEY HAVE SOMETHING HERE CALLED CANCER!

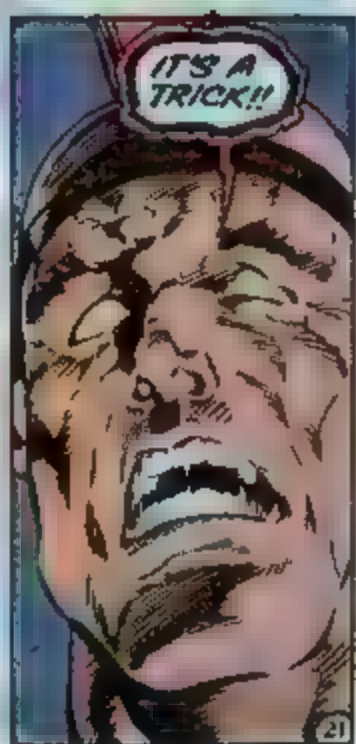
SURELY YOU MUST, ALSO, SENSE THE PROBLEMS I HAVE WITH MY OWN HOST BODY!

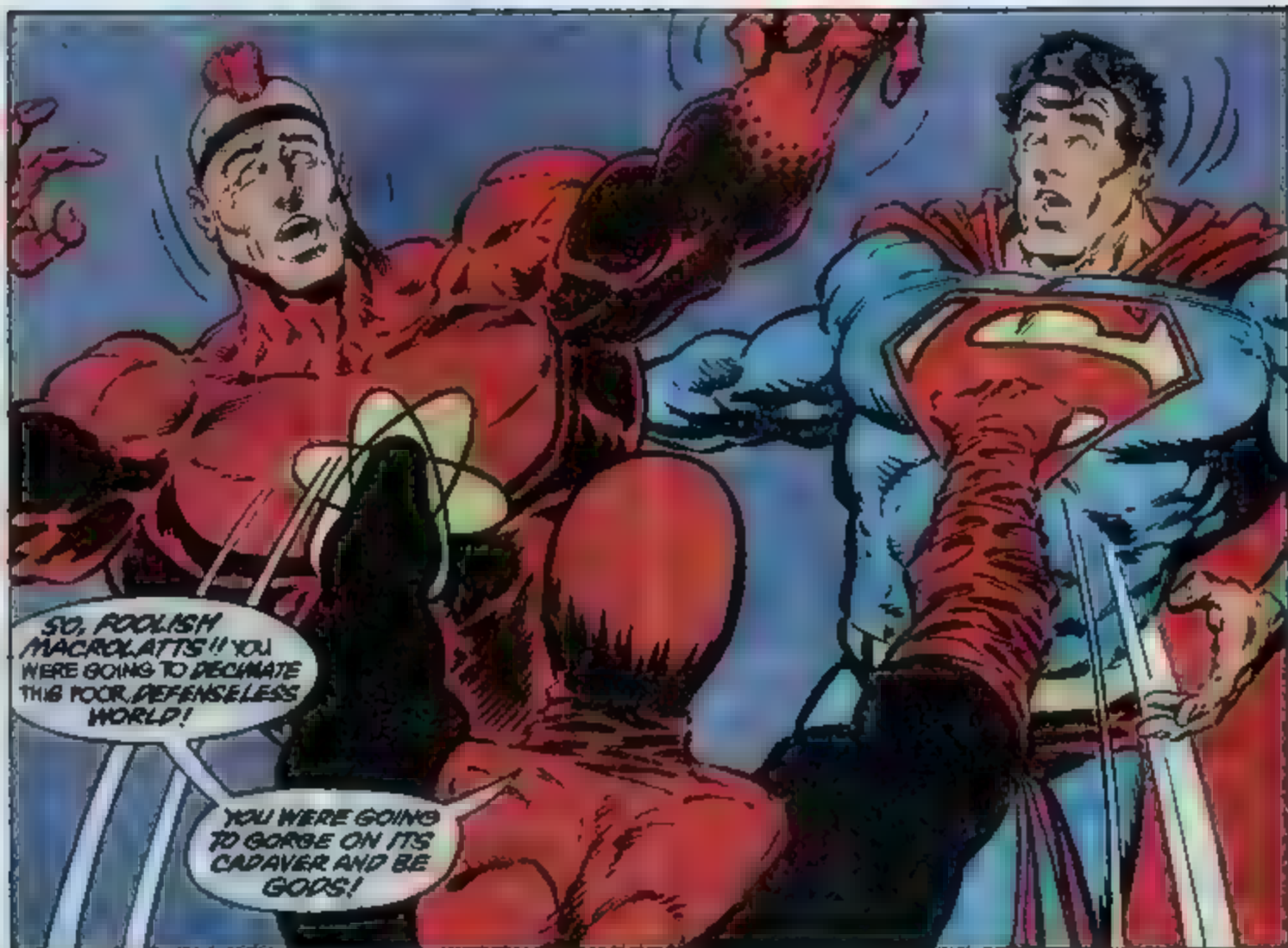


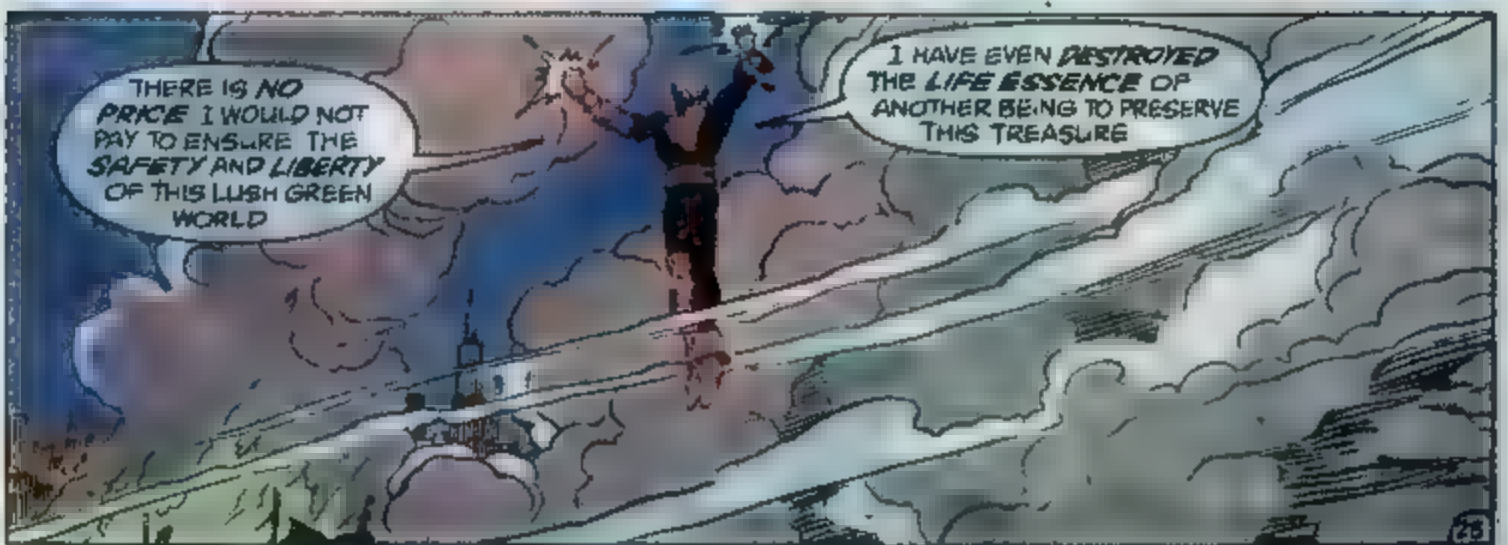
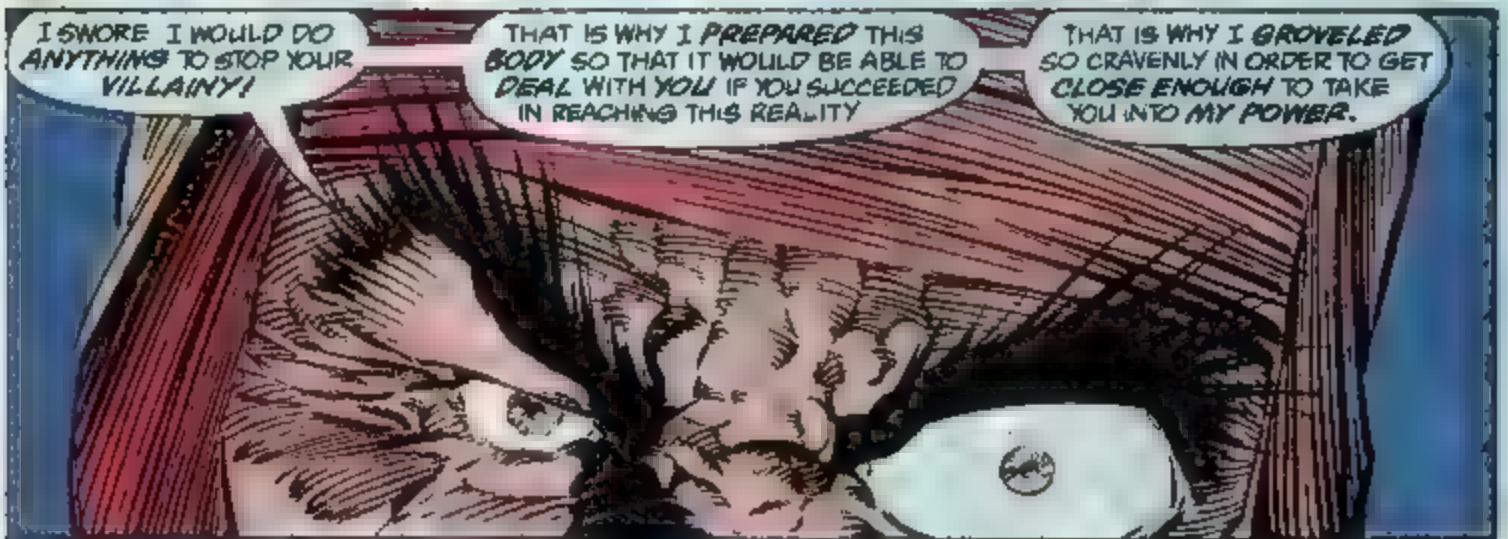
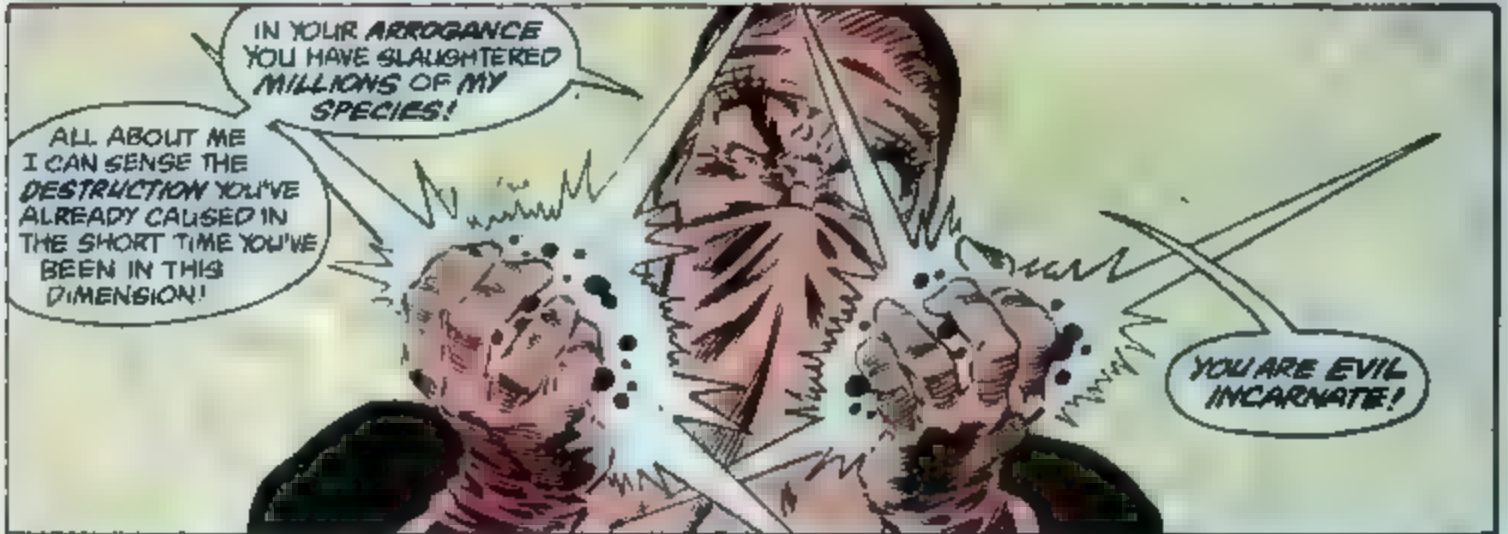
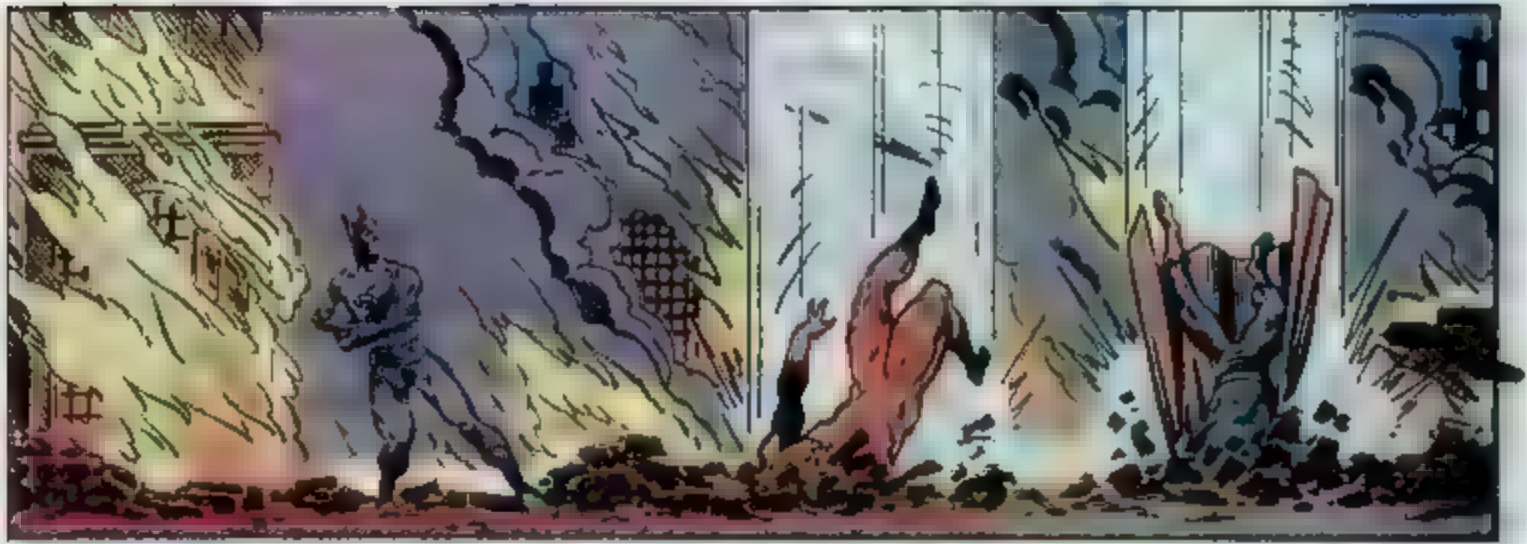
WE DON'T CARE!

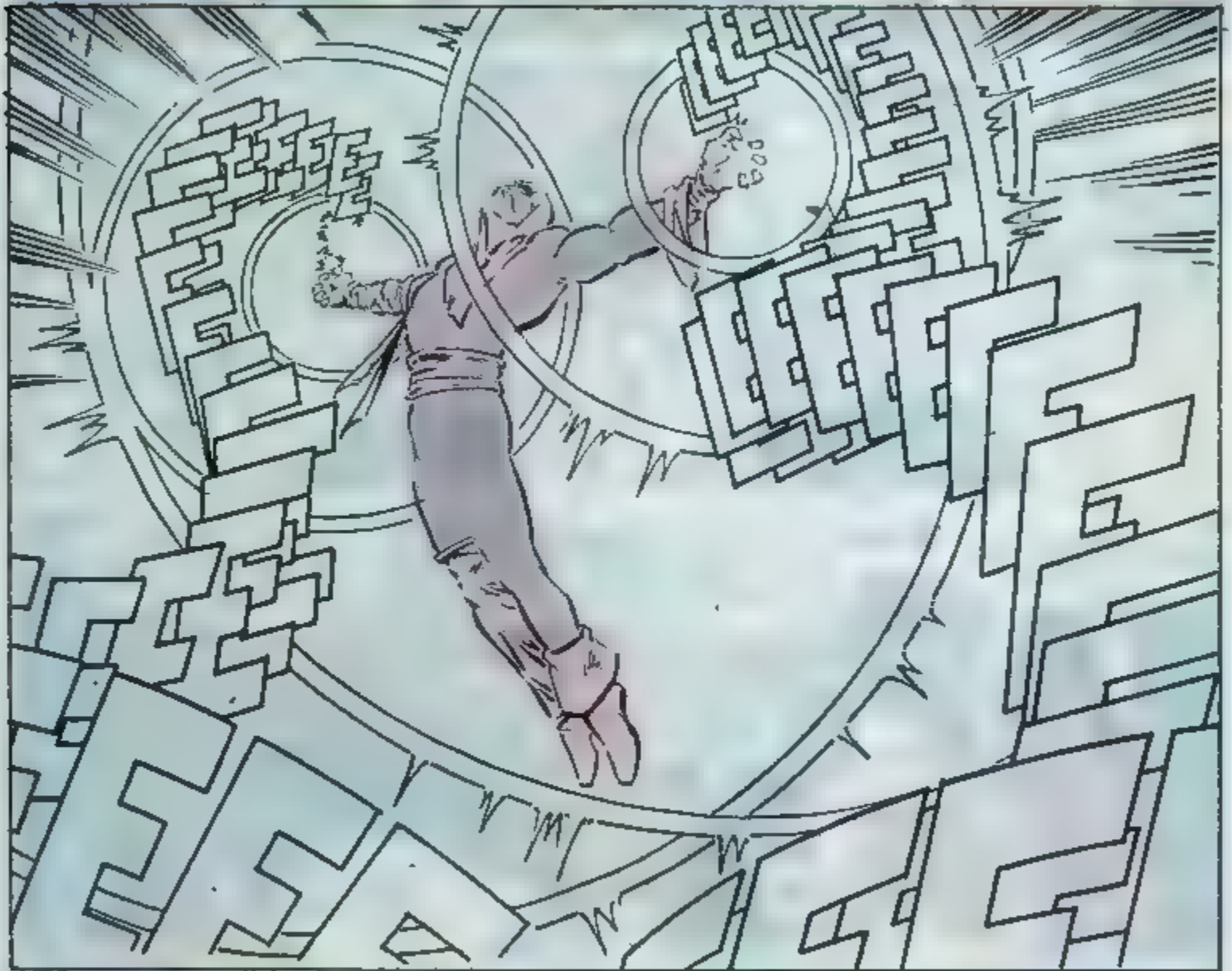
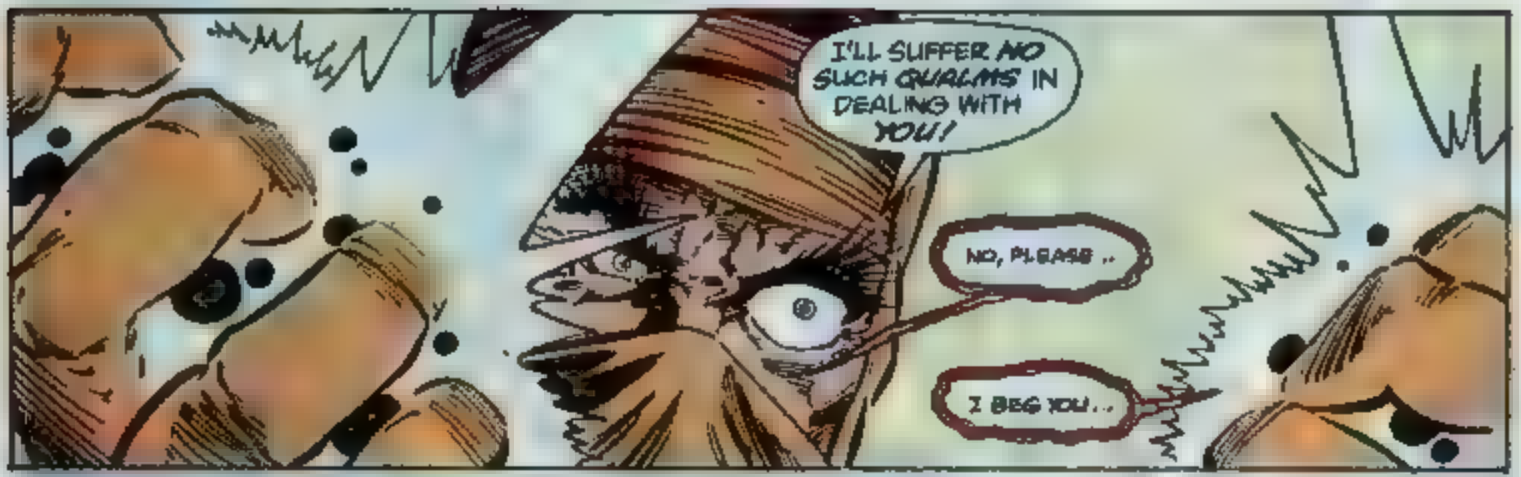
WE'LL NOT STAND FOR A ZAROLATT WHO CAN DO SOMETHING WE CAN'T!

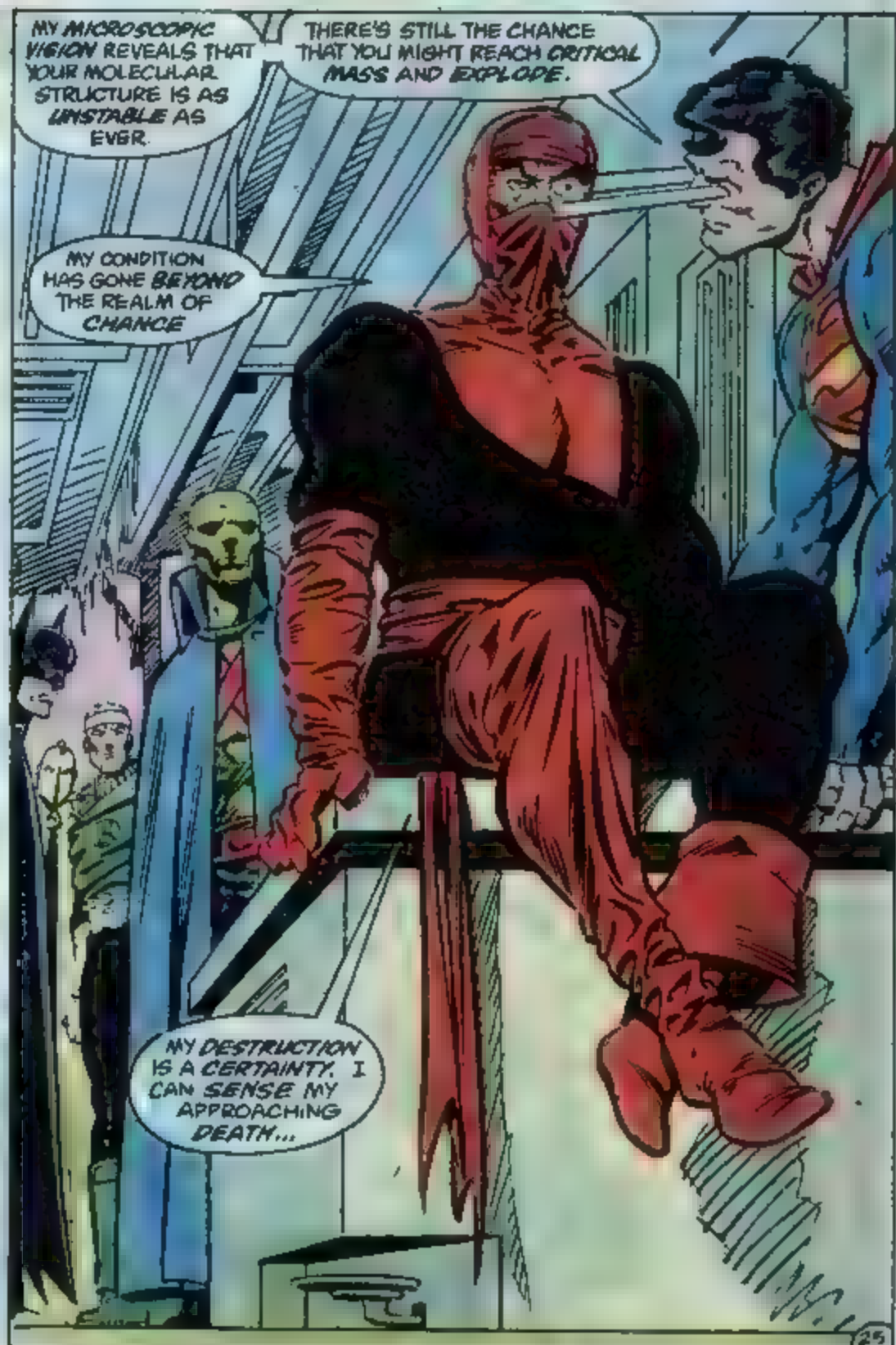
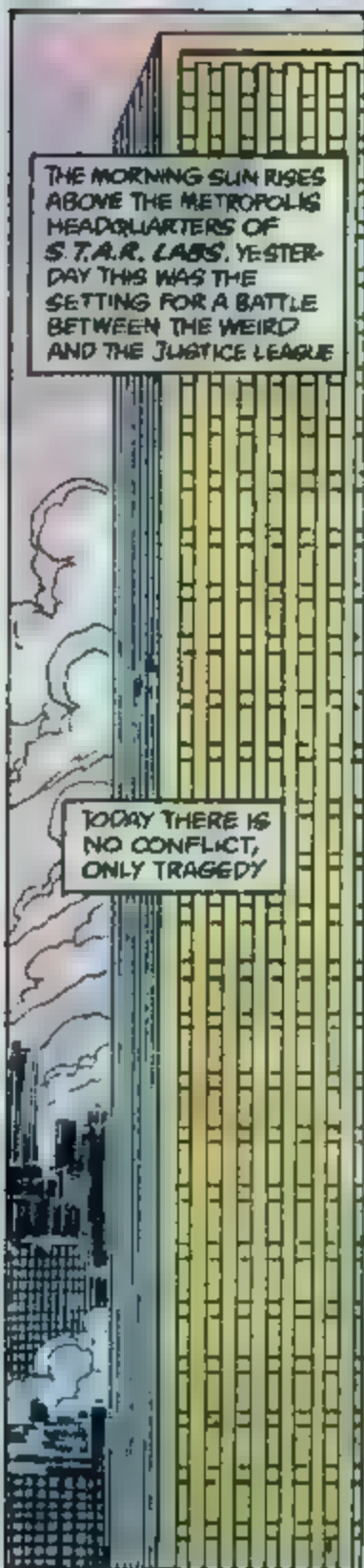
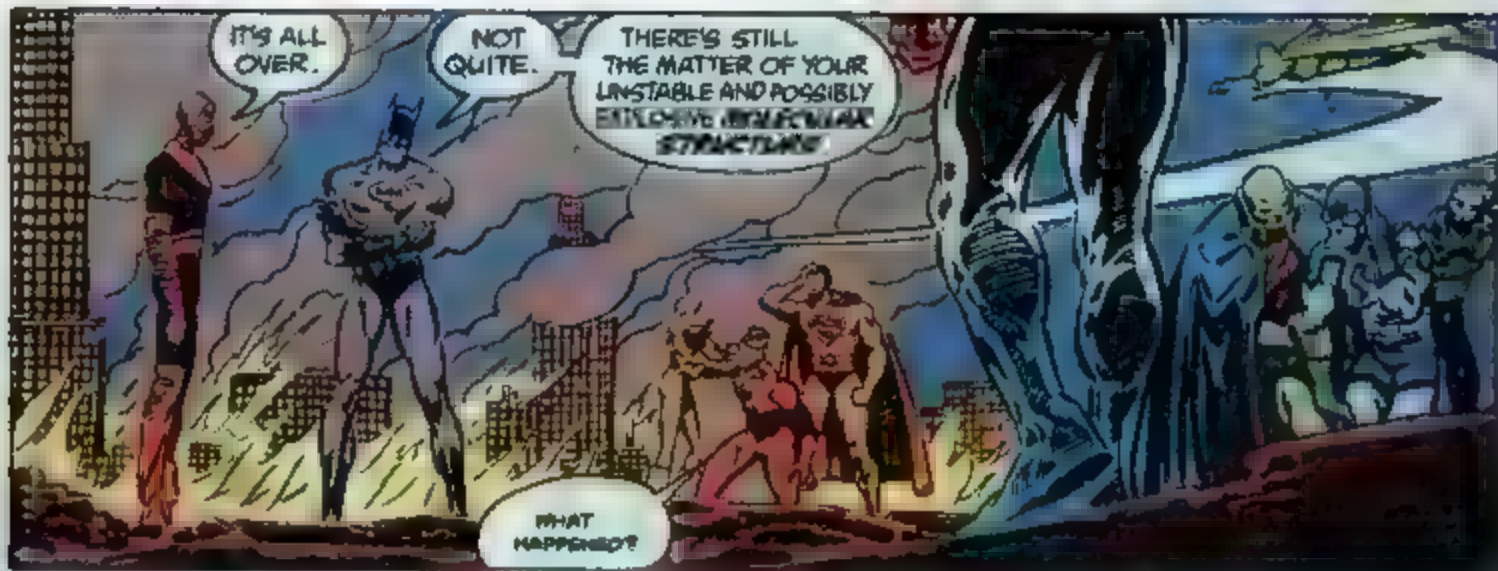












LATER THAT SAME DAY, ON THE ATLANTIC COAST JUST SOUTH OF METROPOLIS ..

WILL THIS SECTION OF BEACH DO?

IT'LL BE PERFECT.

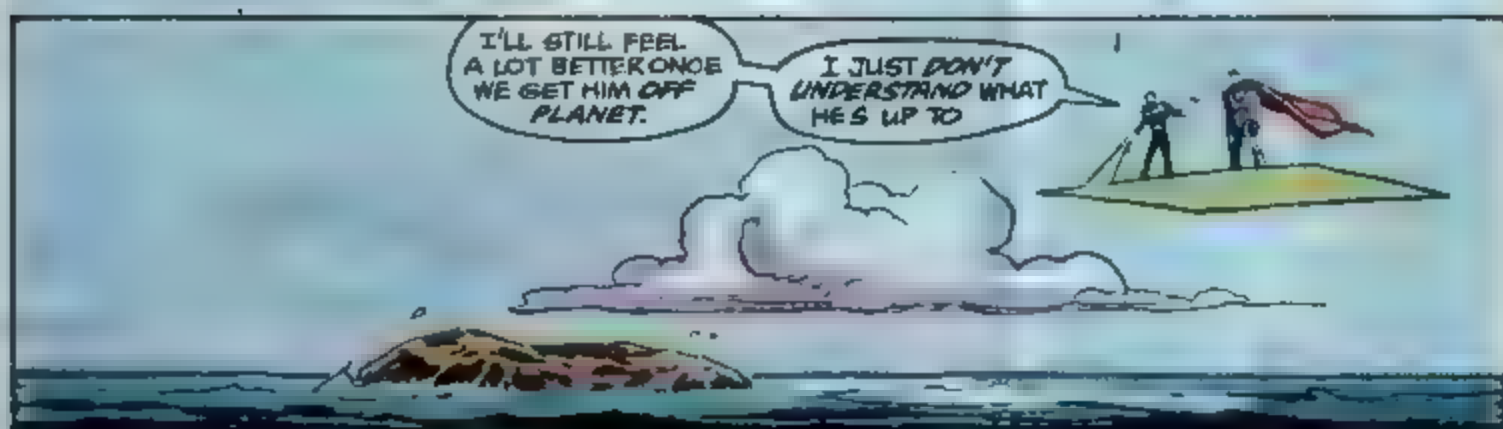
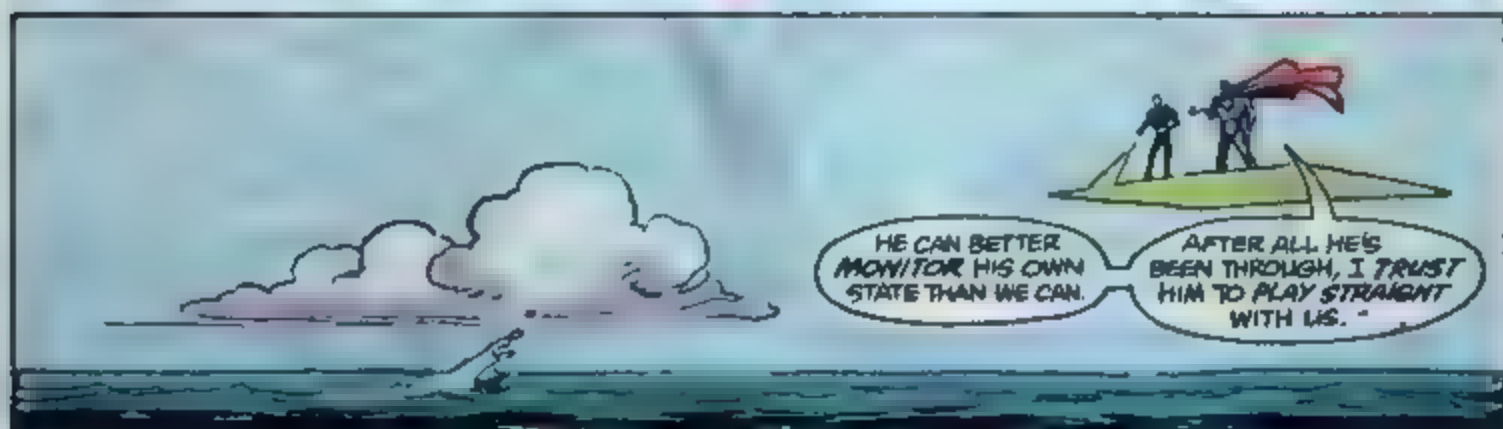
IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO HELP?

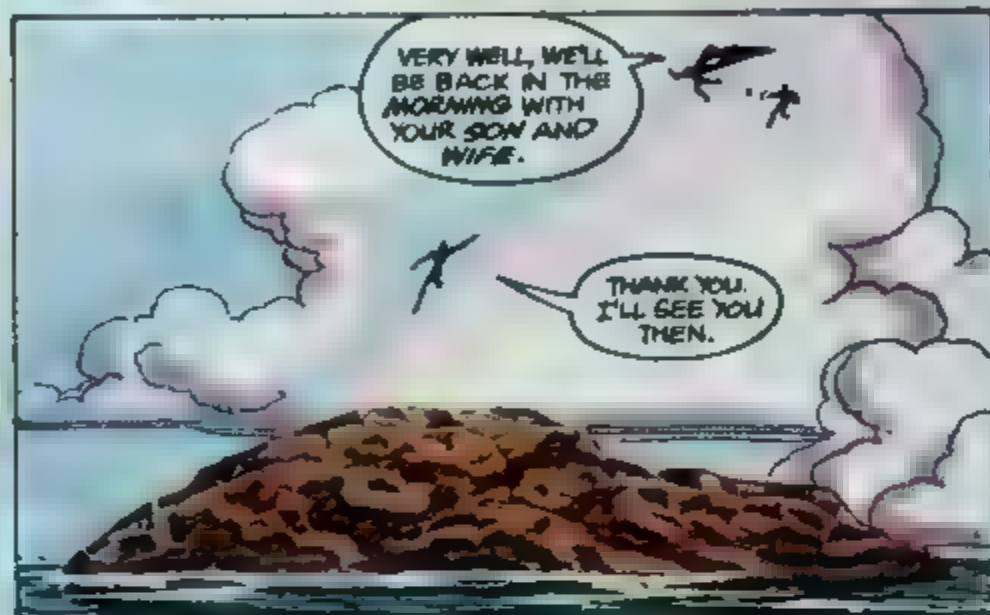
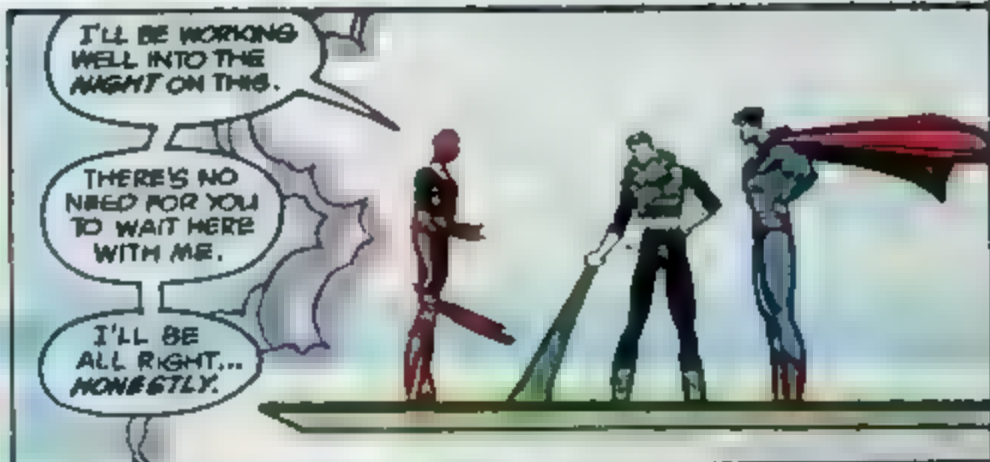
NO, THIS IS MY TASK ALONE!

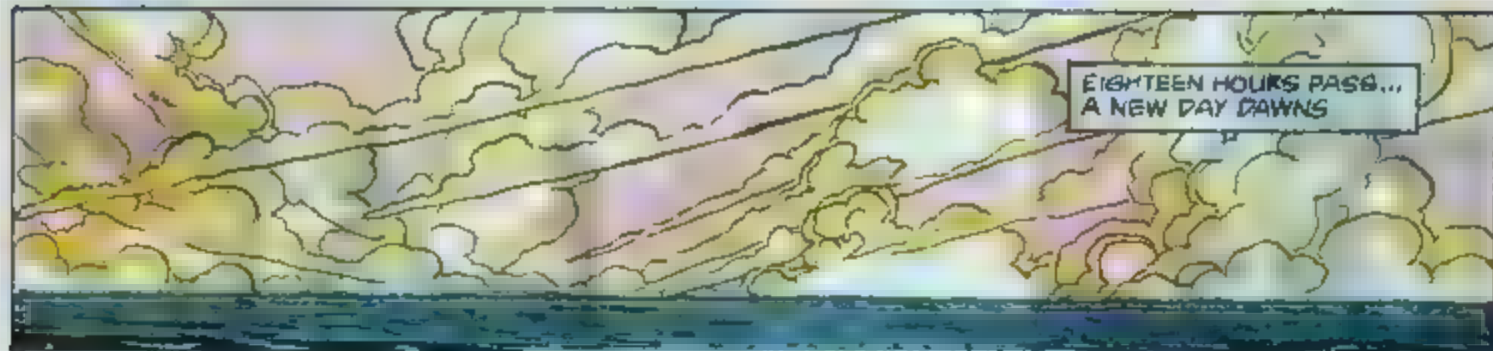
WITH MY ABILITY TO CONTROL MY OWN MOLECULAR DENSITY AND THAT OF ANYTHING I AM IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH, THIS JOB SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT

.. MY OWN SPECIAL PROJECT

STILL I MUST HURRY MY TIME IS TERRIBLY LIMITED.







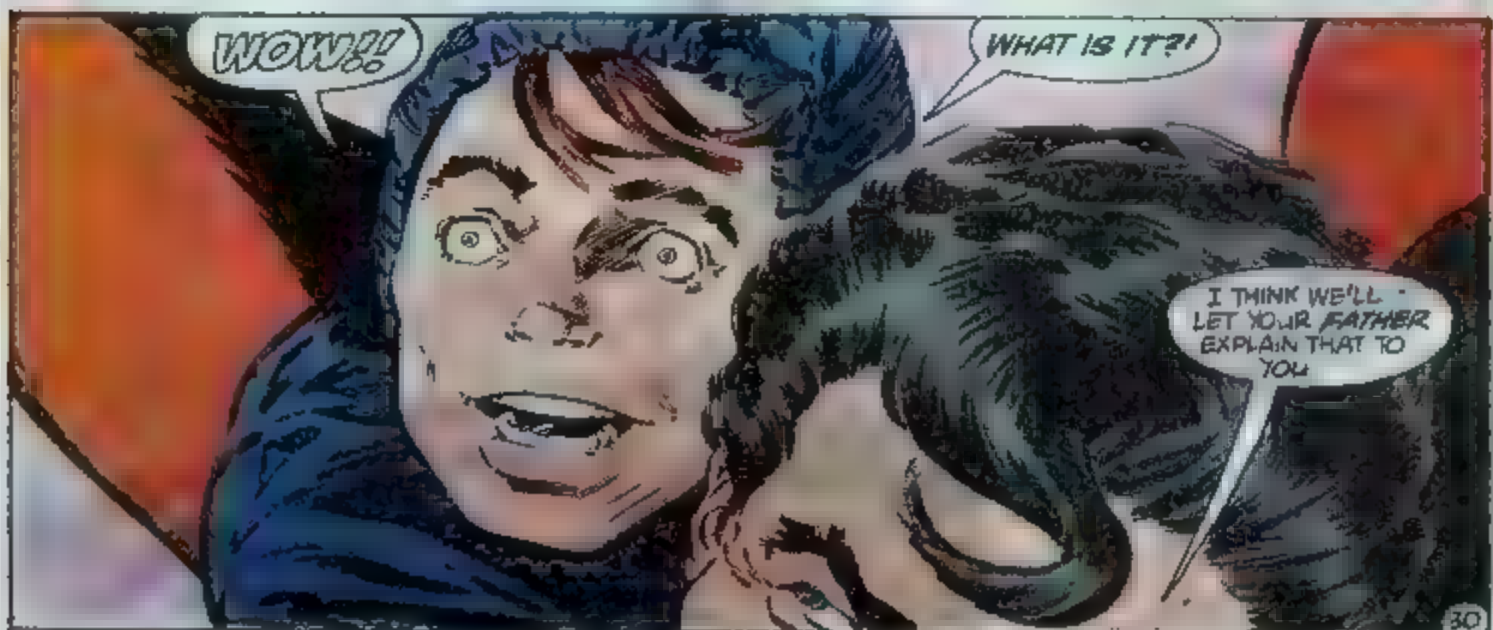
EIGHTEEN HOURS PASS...
A NEW DAY DAWNS



ARE YOU STILL
WARM ENOUGH,
BILLY?

JUST FINE
HOW MUCH FARTHER
WE GOT TO GO?

YOU CAN SEE
OUR DESTINATION
JUST OVER THERE
TO THE RIGHT



WOW!!

WHAT IS IT?!

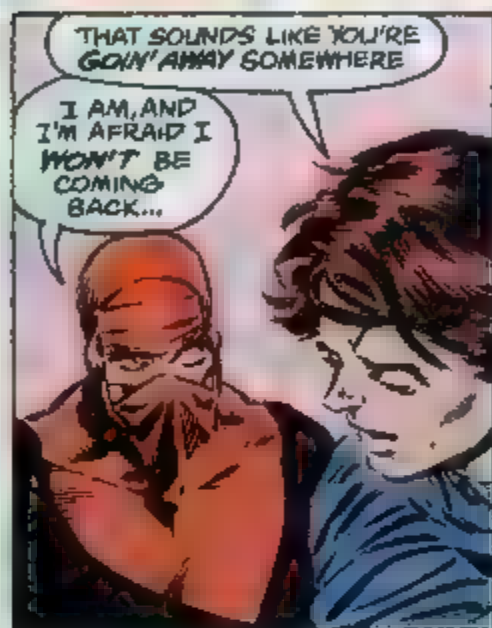
I THINK WE'LL
LET YOUR FATHER
EXPLAIN THAT TO
YOU

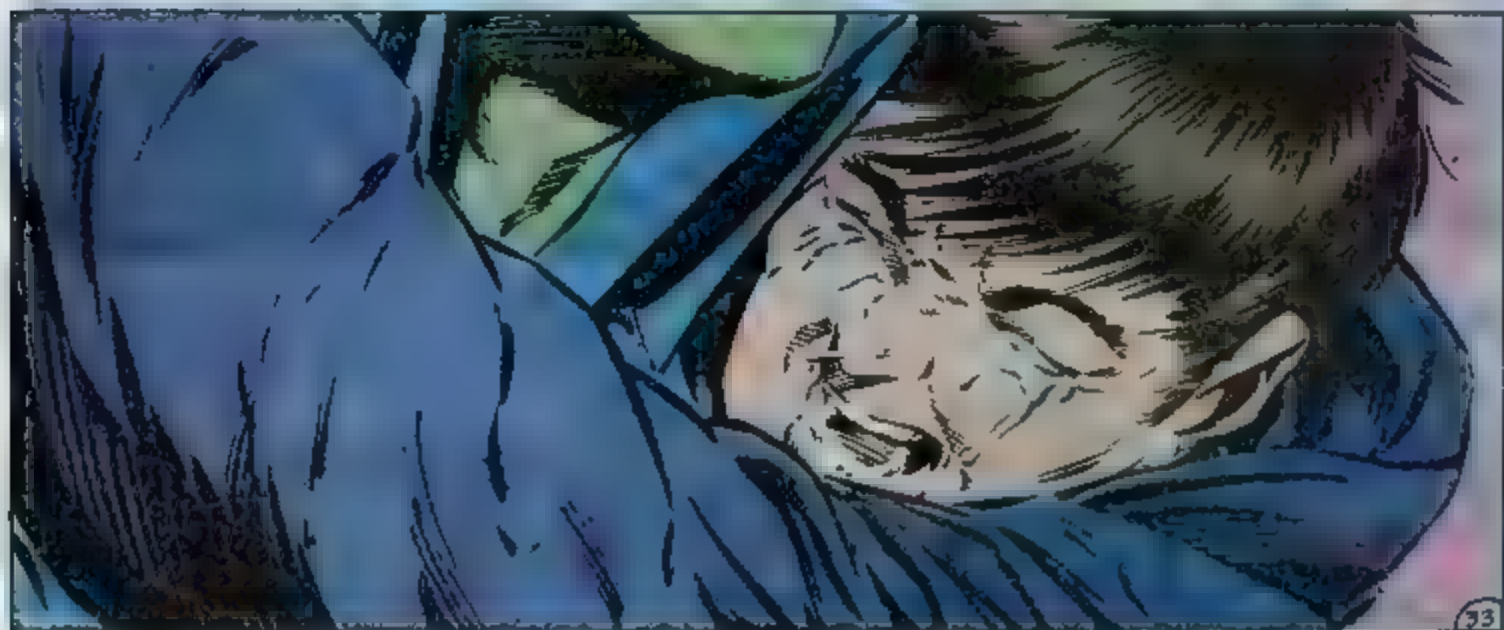
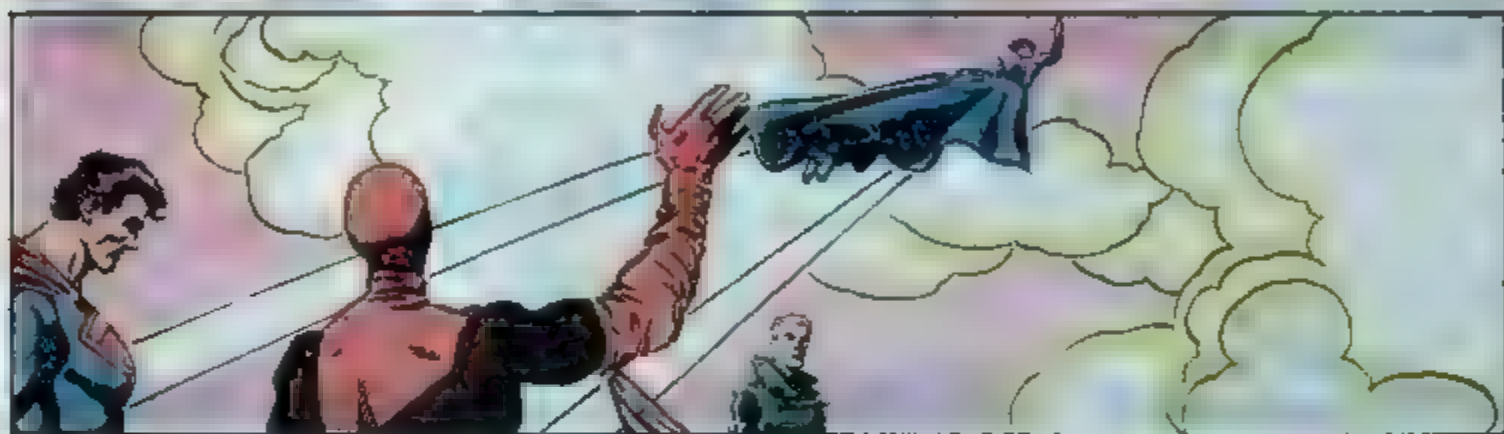
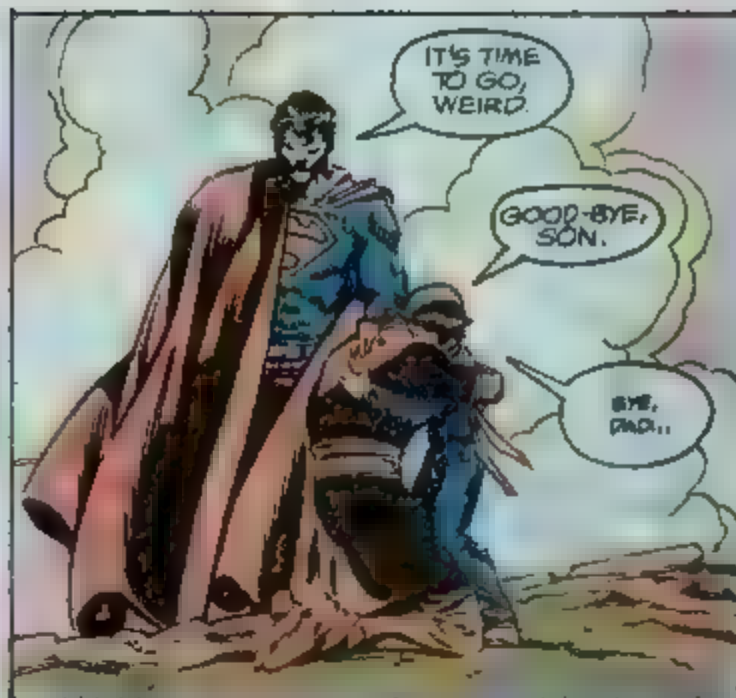
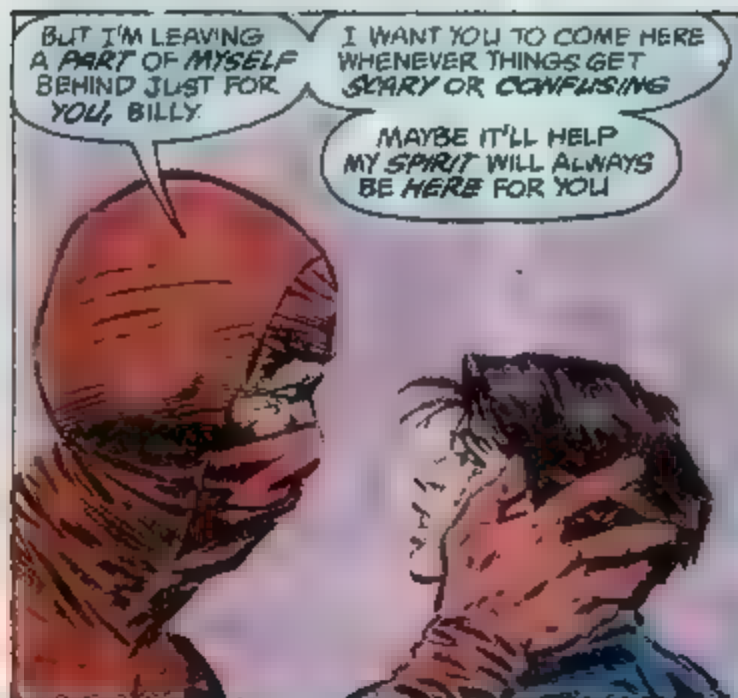


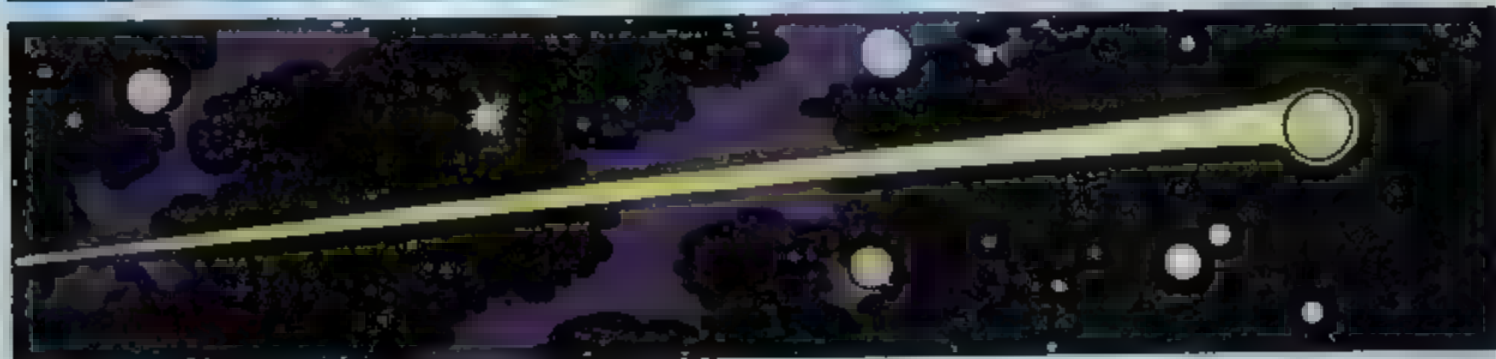
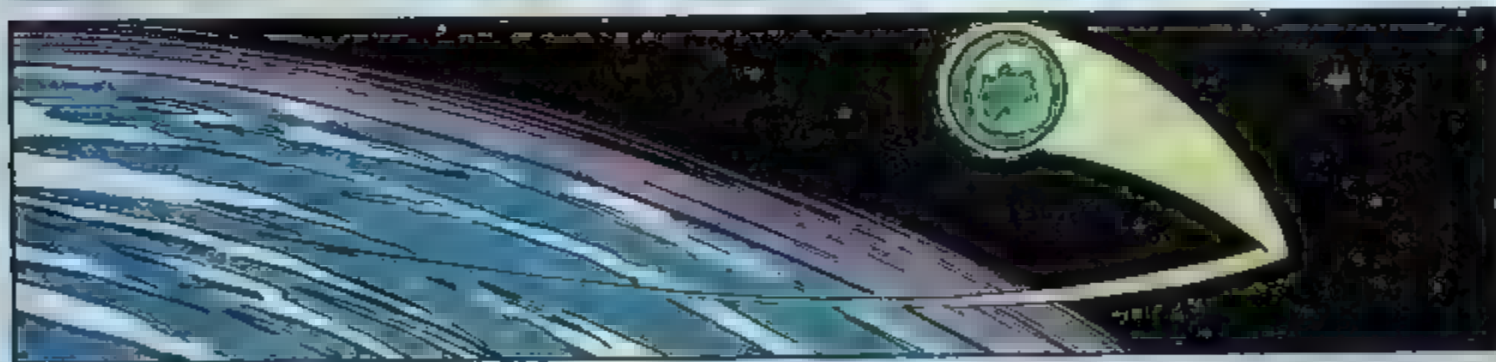
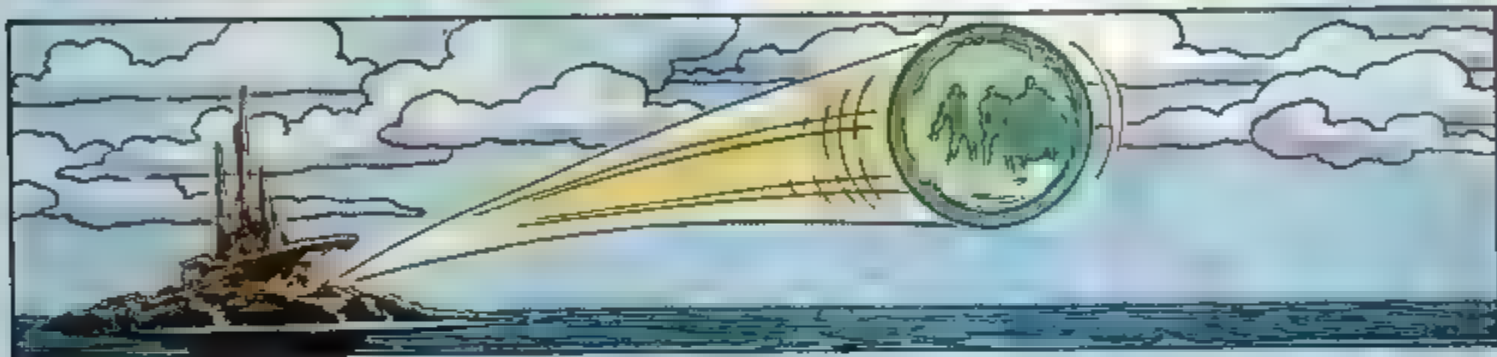
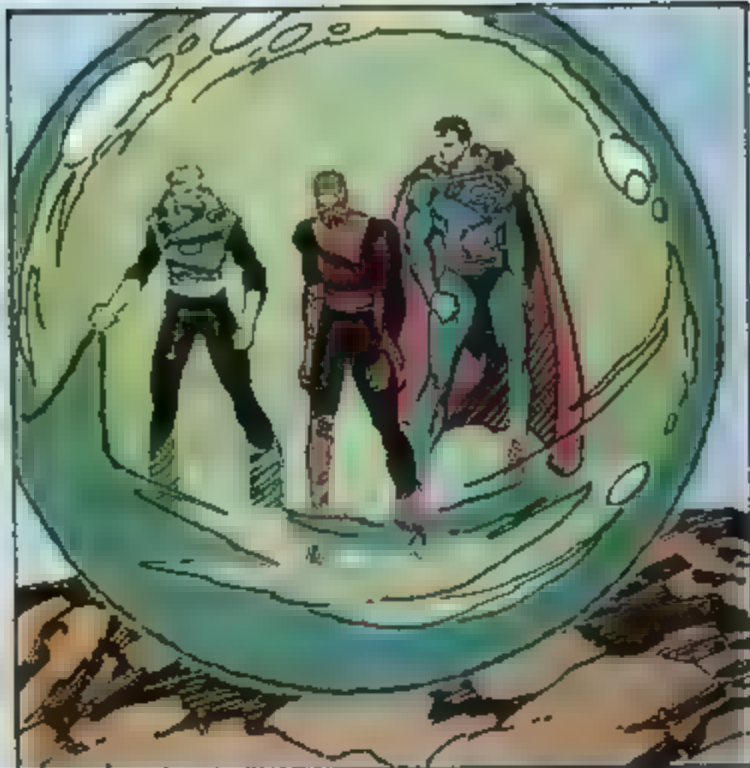
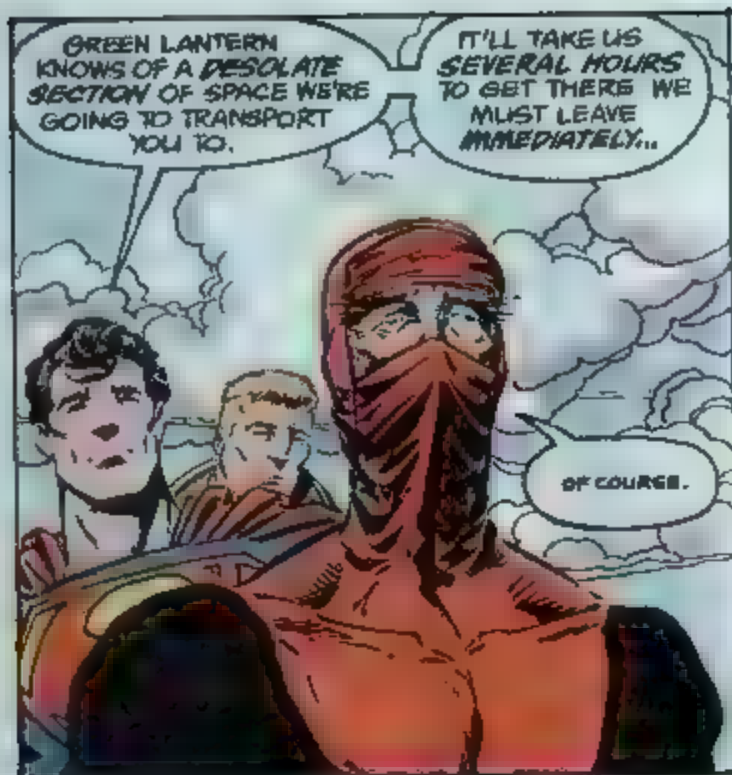
THIS IS
REALLY FAR
OUT, DAD!

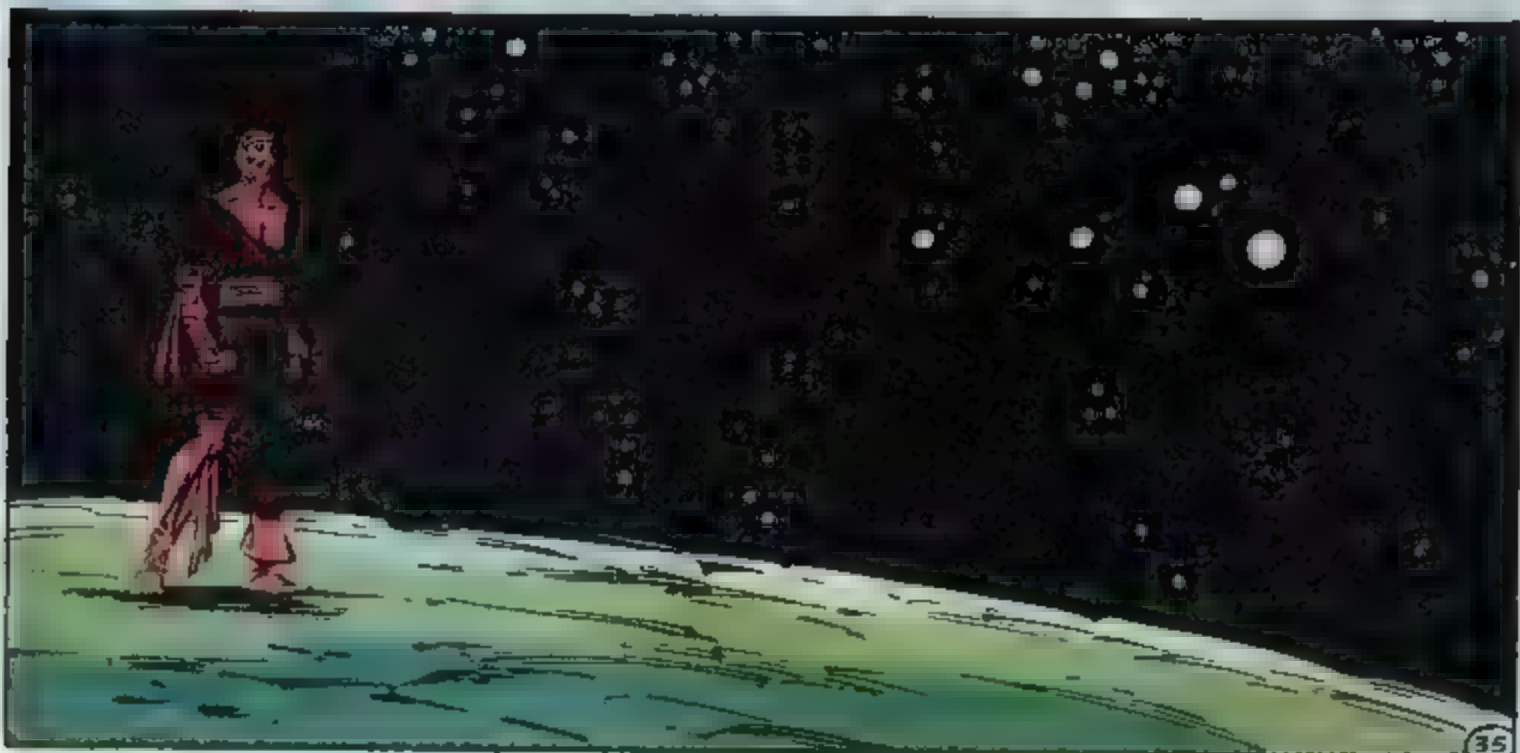
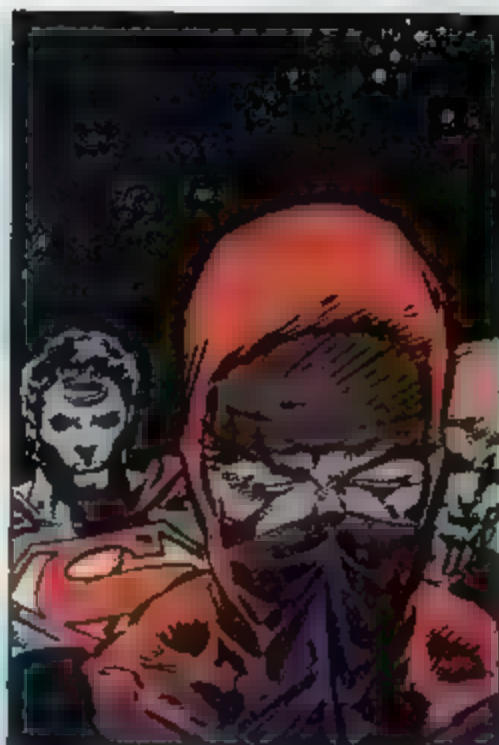
YOU MADE
THIS, DIDN'T
YOU?

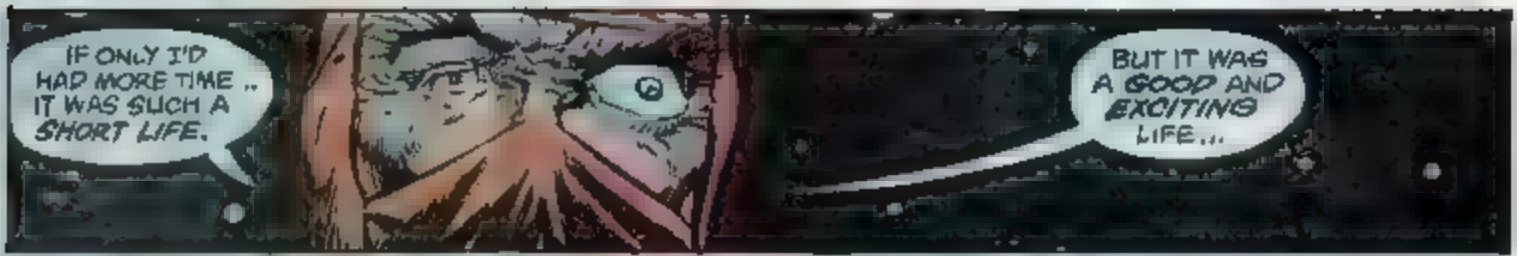
YES,
BILLY

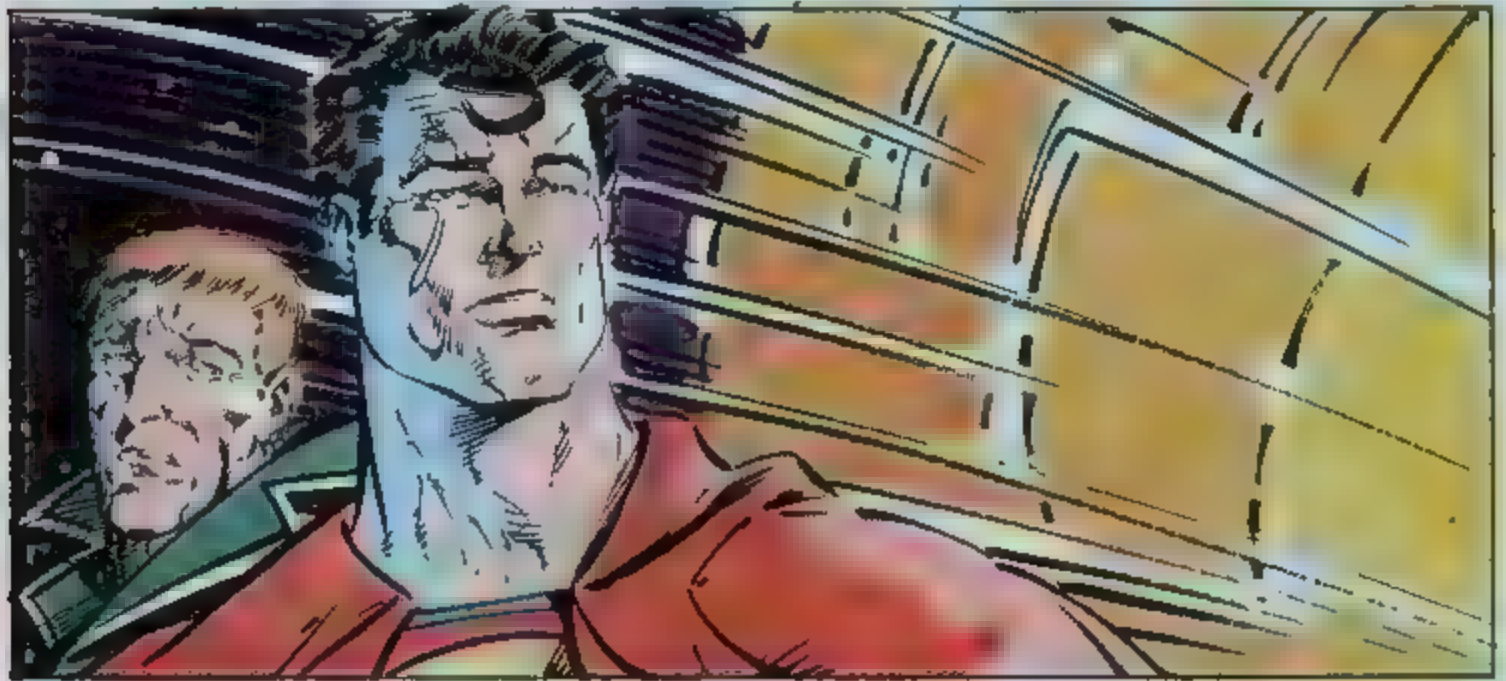
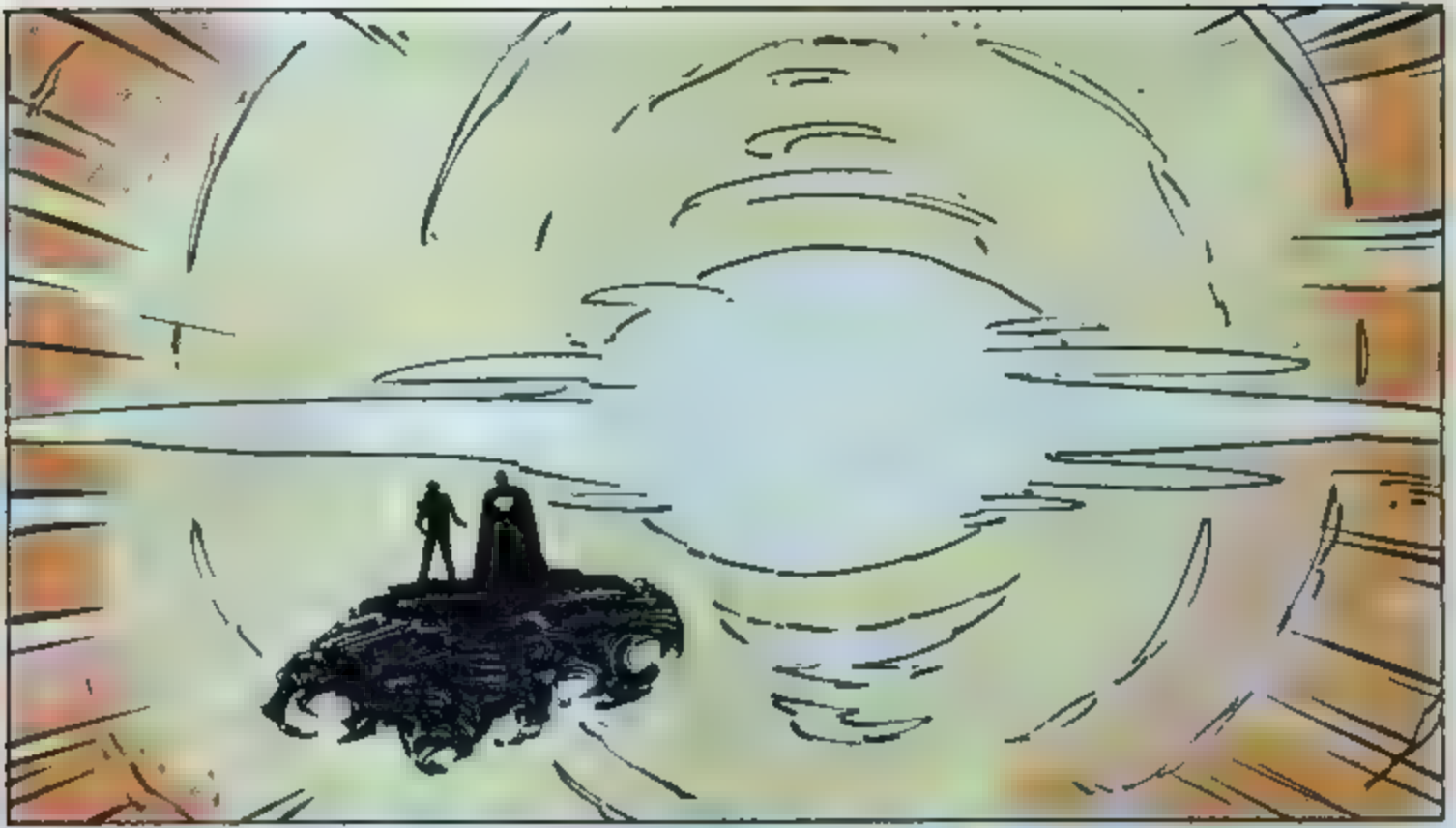


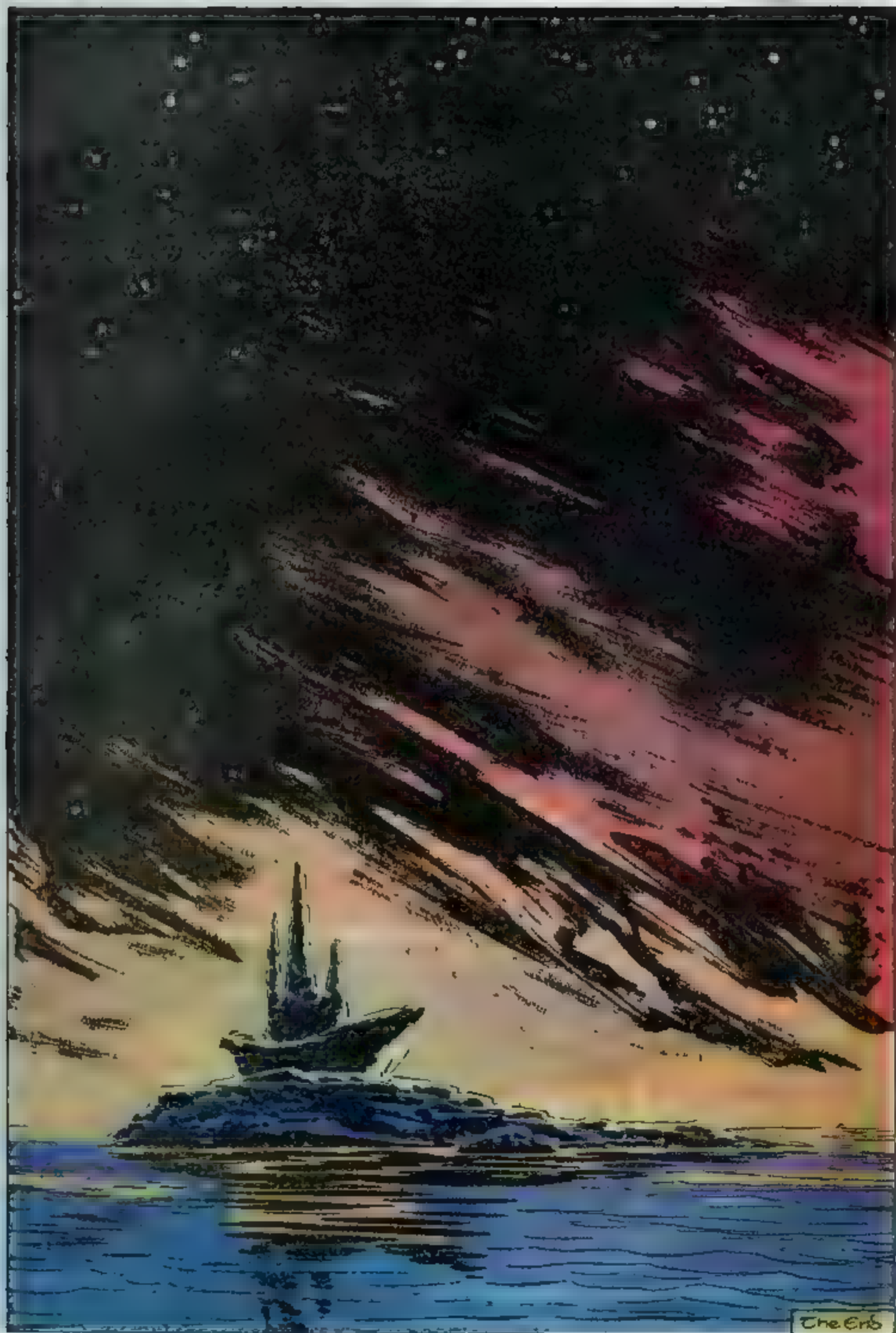












Superman Post-Crisis Chronology

Volume 015 Power Flux

"Gangwar, Part One: From the Streets, to the Streets!", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #, released July, 1987

Marv Wolfman (writer), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Jerry Ordway (inker), P. Craig Russell (inker)

"Tears For Titano!", first appeared in Superman Annual issue #1, released May 11, 1987

John Byrne (writer), Brett Breeding (penciller), Ron Frenz (penciller), Ron Frenz (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), Brett Breeding (inker), Ron Frenz (inker)

"The Super Menace of Metropolis!", first appeared in Superman issue #10, released August, 1987

John Byrne (writer), John Byrne (penciller), Karl Kesel (inker)

"Conception", first appeared in The Weird issue #1, released February, 1988

Jim Starlin (writer), Bernie Wrightson (penciller), Bernie Wrightson (inker), Dan Green (inker)

"Questions!", first appeared in The Weird issue #2, released March, 1988

Jim Starlin (writer), Bernie Wrightson (penciller), Bernie Wrightson (penciller), Bernie Wrightson (inker), Bernie Wrightson (inker), Dan Green (inker)

"Confrontation!", first appeared in The Weird issue #3, released April, 1988

Jim Starlin (writer), Bernie Wrightson (penciller), Bernie Wrightson (penciller), Bernie Wrightson (inker), Bernie Wrightson (inker), Dan Green (inker)

"...Armageddon!", first appeared in The Weird issue #4, released May, 1988

Jim Starlin (writer), Bernie Wrightson (penciller), Bernie Wrightson (inker), Dan Green (inker)



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TITAN!**

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